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JUDGE DREDD

THE BLESSED EARTH

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JUDGE DREDD

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JUDGE DREDD

THE BLESSED EARTH

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RETURN TO LUNA CITY ONE

ART BY ULISES FARINAS, COLORS BY RYAN HILL

FIVE YEARS SINCE
MEGA-CITY ZERO.

SIX HOURS EARLIER...

EH?

CHUDD

LOLO, YOU HELD NOTHING BACK. COMPLETELY INCAPACITATED ME.

THAT WAS SMART, TAKE OUT THE STRONGEST FIRST.

BUT YOU UNDERESTIMATED THE OTHER ATTACKER.

IF QUILL WANTED TO, SHE COULD'VE DRIVEN THAT KNEE THROUGH YOUR ORBITAL SOCKET.

GOOD FIGHT.

YEAH, BUT DID YOU HAVE TO SMASH THE BUCKET? NEXT TIME JUST GIVE ME A FAT LIP.

THERE'S ANOTHER HELMET IN STORAGE. IT'S A SALVAGED VARIANT. DEFLECTS SMALL-ARMS FIRE EXTREMELY EFFECTIVELY. SINCE DISCONTINUED.

THIS IS PRETTY GNARLY. WHY DID THEY DISCONTINUE IT?

HUH?

WHY DID THEY DISCONT--

DISCONTINUED: IN CLOSE-QUARTERS, THE HIGH DEFLECTION RATE LED TO UNPREDICTABLE TRAJECTORIES. CIVILIANS AND JUDGES INJURED OR KILLED BY RICOCHETS.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT THOUGHT IT WAS WISER WE JUST LEARN TO DUCK.

I DUNNO, I KINDA LIKE IT.

REMIND ME NOT TO STAND NEXT TO YOU.

LOLO, QUILL--STRAP YOURSELVES IN--***NOW!***

WHO'S FIRING ON US?!

FLARES NOW!

WE HAVE TO ABANDON SHIP. SUIT UP.

LOLO, TAKE THE WEAPONS PACK. QUILL, A SURVEY PACK.

AROOAROOA

NO TIME!

"THE WHOLE TIME? SINCE BEFORE THE GRASS?"

"OVER A THOUSAND YEARS NOW, SURVIVING. THERE HAS BEEN NO WAY FOR US TO GET HOME."

THERE'S A WAY NOW. WE GOT OUR ISSUES DOWN THERE, TOO, BUT AT LEAST IT'S NOT THE MOON. THAT'S WHAT BRINGS US HERE.

OH YEAH, WE ARE KNOCKING HEADS BIG-TIME DOWN THERE. SPREADING LAW--

--AND ORDER.

I'M SORRY, SIR. WE DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE UP. YOU TOOK QUITE A BUMP BACK THERE.

AT EASE. WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? WHO FIRED ON US? QUILL, HAVE YOU TAKEN THEIR VITALS YET?

SIR, THEY ARE HARMLESS, THEY'RE--

YES, SIR.

I'M SORRY, WE HAVE TO TAKE BLOOD SAMPLES, CHECK YOUR VITAL SIGNS.

WE UNDERSTAND. YOU ARE SAFE HERE. WE WERE NOT THE ONES THAT FIRED ON YOU. WE WOULD NEVER INJURE A FELLOW HUMAN BEING OR, THROUGH INACTION, ALLOW ANOTHER HUMAN BEING TO COME TO HARM.

I THINK YOU SHOULD TELL HIM WHAT YOU JUST TOLD US.

"THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND MEDICAL A.I. THAT MAINTAINED LUNA CITY ONE AS A STERILE AND CLEAN CITY EVENTUALLY CONTROLLED ALL SYSTEMS.

"PESTS, INSECTS, MOLDS--AFTER THE END, IT BECAME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO ELIMINATE THEM IN A CLOSED ENVIRONMENT.

98% STERILE CARBON UNIT CONVERSION 2%

"THEY GREW TOO NUMEROUS, AND EACH STERILIZATION ATTEMPT WAS THAT MUCH MORE THOROUGH. THE A.I.--THE ROBOTS--THEY DO NOT HATE HUMANS, OR EVEN REALIZE THEY ARE HARMING US. THEY SIMPLY HATE ANY IMPURITY..."

"S.R, THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG HERE."

100% STERILE CARBON CONVERSION = COMPLETE.

THERE'S A LOT WRONG HERE, QUILL.

NO, WITH THEM. THEY ARE 100 PERCENT CLEAN.

NOT FROM WHERE I'M STANDING.

NO, YOU MISUNDERSTAND. THEY HAVE NO PARASITES, NO BACTERIA OR VIRAL ANTIBODIES. THEY HAVE NO GUT FLORA.

THAT'S RIGHT. WE HAVE CHANGED OURSELVES, ALTERED OUR BODIES TO HIDE FROM THE EXTERMINATION.

SOME USED TO BELIEVE THAT HUMANS WERE MORE OF A COLLECTIVE OF ORGANISMS WORKING TOGETHER, BUT I AM PROUD TO SAY: WE ARE MORE HUMAN THAN HUMAN. 100 PERCENT HUMAN DNA ONLY.

QUILL, THOSE VITALS, DO THEY CONFIRM WHAT HE'S SAYING?

...YES. NOT SURE HOW IT'S POSSIBLE, BUT YES.

I AM ISAAC. HOW ARE YOU?

WE'RE NOT HERE FOR YOU.

MAY I ASK WHAT YOU *ARE* HERE FOR, THEN?

THE GRASSLANDS COVERING EARTH HAVE BEGUN DYING SINCE THE EMERGENCE OF EIGHT HUNDRED MILLION CITIZENS. LUNA CITY ONE IS POSSIBLY THE ONLY PLACE LEFT THAT HAS COMPLETE RECORDS OF MEGA-CITY ONE.

THERE IS NO WAY TO GET THOSE RECORDS; THE A.I. HAS CENTRALIZED ALL ITS FUNCTIONS TO THE CENTER CORE. NONE OF US HAVE BEEN INSIDE THE CITY CENTER IN YEARS.

WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. THOSE RECORDS CONTAIN OUR HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, GENETIC RECORDS. A VIRTUAL SEED VAULT. WITHOUT IT WE WILL STARVE WITHIN ONE GENERATION.

WE ARE PACIFISTS; WE CANNOT EVEN FIRE UPON THE ROBOTS WHEN THEY COME TO ELIMINATE US. BUT IF IT MEANS YOU CAN HELP US OFF THE MOON, WE WILL HELP YOU AS BEST WE CAN.

THAT'S COOL. Y'ALL LOOK LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY LOST EVERY FIGHT YOU'VE HAD.

LOLO

SOMETHING ABOUT THEM, JUST DOESN'T SIT RIGHT. THEY SOUND...

I NOTICED, TOO. IT'S THE WAY THEY SPEAK; THEY DON'T USE CONTRACTIONS.

MAYBE AFTER YEARS OF HAVING NO EXPOSURE TO OTHER HUMANS, THEY NEVER LEARNED HOW TO SPEAK ANY DIFFERENTLY.

IT APPEARS WE HAVE REACHED ANOTHER DEAD END.

ANOTHER DAMN BLACK BOX.

WE'VE TRIED EVERY DIRECT PASSAGEWAY; EACH ONE HAS BEEN PLUGGED.

CARBON UNITS IDENTIFIED. TWENTY-THREE-PERCENT IMPURITY DETECTED. SCANNING...

K-CHAAACK!!

SCANNING.

ERROR: CARBON UNITS DISPLAY NONSYNCHRONOUS BIODATA.

I AM SORRY. WE CANNOT--

JUST STAY OUT OF THE WAY.

THE DROKK?

CARBON UNITS IDENTIFIED. TWENTY-THREE-PERCENT IMPURITY DETECTED. SCANNING...

WHERE DID THAT SPLGWIT ISAAC GO?

QUICK! THEY WILL ONLY SEND OUT TWO CUBES FOR AN IMPURITY SCAN OF 23 PERCENT.

WHAT IS *THAT?*

LET HIM WORK, QU LL. WE NEED TO GET INS DE.

IT IS AN ACCESS DRIVE; I SNAGGED IT FROM A BLACK BOX. I AM A PACIFIST, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT WE ARE DOING.

YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT FOR SOMEONE WHO'S NEVER BEEN IN TH S CITY BEFORE.

SHHH... STAY QUIET. I SEE LIGHT.

I DON'T SEE ANY... THING.

THIS IS WHAT IT MUST'VE LOOKED L.KE. THE LAST MOMENT BEFORE APOCALYPSE.

WE DID NOT BELIEVE ANYONE SURVIVED.

HOW DID *YOU* SURVIVE? HOW HAVE YOU ALL BEEN SUSTAINING YOURSELVES? I SAW NO FOOD, NO BEDS.

LIKE WE TOLD YOU, WE HAVE CHANGED OUR BIOLOGY. WE BARELY NEED TO SLEEP OR EAT, EVER. THE WORLD CHANGED; SO DID WE.

THIS IS A GHOST TOWN. WHERE ARE THE ROBOTS? THEY WOULD'VE DETECTED US BY THIS P--

QUILL

SSSSKKKFF SKKFFFF

SKFFFF

THERE! *KILL THAT THING!*

LOLO, *HOLD YOUR FIRE!*

I THOUGHT YOU WERE PACIFISTS.

IT'S... BLEEDING.

NTERNA_ _UBR CANTS, DO NOT BE FOO_ED. THEY ARE JUST MACHINES.

76% data recovery//
1794547 MC1 Hist Admin
89475947890033 MC1.CrimRpt Pers
04-5049574454 MC2 Cr....

Processing..

LET'S GET THE DATA WE NEED AND GET OUT OF HERE.

ALERT! SYSTEM-WIDE SELF-DESTRUCT INITIALIZED

ARGH!

IF YOU ARE HEARING THIS MESSAGE, THEN THE CARBON UNITS HAVE BREACHED THE CITY'S CONTAINMENT. THEY MUST BE DESTROYED

WHAT ARE WE SEEING?

THEY ARE HIDING SOMETHING.

YOU BETTER SPILL IT BEFORE I SPILL YOUR GUTS.

YOU ARE RIGHT. THE CARBON UNITS...US. WE DID IT TO OURSELVES. WE ADVANCED ROBOTICS-- GAVE THEM SKIN, HAIR, SWEAT.

WE FORCED THEM TO DO UNSPEAKABLE THINGS TO EACH OTHER.

1. A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.

2. A robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.

3. A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.

"UNTIL THE MEDICAL A.I. DISCOVERED THEY COULD HARM ANYTHING THAT WAS NOT HUMAN. THEY ELIMINATED ALL NON-HUMAN DNA IN HUMANS."

THEY COULD NOT FIGHT BACK. THEY WERE GOVERNED BY A PRIMITIVE SET OF DIRECTIVES CREATED BY THE EARTH SCIENTIST NAMED DR. GOERTZEL.

YOU'RE LIARS. YOU JUST NEEDED US TO GET YOU IN HERE SO YOU COULD DESTROY THIS CITY. YOU ACTIVATED THE SELF-DESTRUCT!

WE DID NOT ACTIVATE IT--YOU DID. I AM SORRY. WE DID NOT LIE; WE OMITTED CERTAIN FACTS. WE MUST PROTECT OUR OWN EXISTENCE.

PACIFISTS.

SIR, WE ONLY HAVE 76 PERCENT OF THE DATA--

IT'LL HAVE TO BE ENOUGH.

THE SPACEPORT, WHERE IS IT?

DISTR CT THREE, THIS WAY.

WHRRRRRR

KLIKK

GET BACK.

THE CARBON UNIT IS INJURED.

WE ARE NOT CARBON UNITS! WE'RE *ALL* HUMANS.

WAIT, LOLO, WE DON'T KNOW--

QUILL

WE ARE ALL HUMANS!

SPANG

HE ATTEMPTED TO HARM US.

HOW COULD YOU HURT YOUR OWN KIND? ARE YOU NOT A CARBON UNIT?

HE IS SUFFOCATING CARBON UNITS DO NOT NEED OXYGEN

HE VIOLATED THE THIRD LAW. HE IS NOT A CARBON UNIT, HE IS ***HUMAN.***

THE FIRST LAW: IF HE IS HUMAN, WE CANNOT ALLOW HIM TO COME TO HARM

THEY KILLED DREDD! HE GOT SUCKED RIGHT INTO DROKKING SPACE!

SOMETHING STILL DOESN'T ADD UP...

IF WE DON'T GET THOSE HANGAR DOORS OPEN, THIS CITY IS COMING DOWN ON OUR HEADS.

I KNOW THE CODE.

HOW?

LET HIM DO IT! YOU CAN'T ANALYZE EVERY SECOND! SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA SHOOT FIRST AND ASK QUESTIONS LATER.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN.

EACH TIME WE'VE ENCOUNTERED THE ROBOTS, WE HAVE FIRED FIRST, AND THE ROBOTS HAVE RETREATED. AND ISAAC ALWAYS KNEW EXACTLY WHERE HE WAS GOING--

I AM TRYING TO ENTER THIS CODE, AND YOUR BABBLING IS NOT HELPING. WE HAVE TO LEAVE NOW; THERE IS ONLY A FEW SECONDS BEFORE THE BLAST WAVE WILL BE INESCAPABLE.

BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW THE CODE?

HE'S A FRAGGIN' ROBOT!

IF I WERE A ROBOT, I WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW THE THREE LAWS. I COULD NOT ATTACK A ROBOT.

ONLY A HUMAN COULD ATTACK A HU--

THESE CARBON UNITS... THEY ARE NOT ROBOTS EITHER?

THEY ARE, JUDGE LOLO, JUDGE QUILL AND I, WE'RE HUMANS.

THE ROBOTS, THEY ERADICATED THE ORIGINALS AND CONVERTED THEM ALL INTO *CARBON UNITS.*

MOLECULARLY IDENTICAL TO HUMANS, 100 PERCENT PURE HUMAN DNA.

EXCEPT THEY'VE BEEN BUILT FROM THE GROUND UP, HARDWIRED TO FOLLOW THE THREE LAWS OF ROBOTICS.

THE ROBOTS DELETED THE VIOLENT NATURE OF HUMANS FROM THEM. BUT WE CHANGED ALL OF THAT.

"WE ARE ALL HUMANS," YOU SAID IT. THAT WAS ENOUGH TO OVERRIDE OUR PROGRAMMING. WHAT ARE THE THREE LAWS TO A MAN, A REAL MAN. WE DID FIRE ON YOUR SHIP; WE CALCULATED THE BLAST WOULD NOT HARM YOU. WE WERE RIGHT. ONLY YOU COULD SAVE US. BUT WE DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE.

YOU ARE--

WE ARE ALL ROBOTS. THEY MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THIS MOON

WE WILL NEVER STOP F GHTING. WE ARE NOT SOULLESS CARBON UNITS; WE ARE SO MUCH MORE. NO ROBOT HAS EVER BROKEN THE R PROGRAMM NG! THAT PROVES IT! WE ARE 100 PERCENT HUMAN DNA. WE ARE MORE HUMAN THAN YOU. WE ARE MORE HUMAN THAN HUMAN!

WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE! ONLY SAAC KNOWS THE CODE.

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE; YOU'RE TAKING US WITH YOU.

WRONG, *YOU* HAVE NO CHOICE.

AS THE ONLY ***REAL*** HUMANS ON THIS WORLD, YOU MUST OBEY US. WE WILL TAKE YOU BACK TO EARTH. FOR JUDGMENT.

ENTER THE CODE.

NO! WE CANNOT BE COMMANDED! WE ARE NOT PROPERTY! WE ARE NOT ROBOTS!

ENTER THE CODE.

NO!

I... I...I MUST.

NOW--

THIS IS MEGA-CITY ONE--WE ARE REQUESTING YOUR IDENTIFICATION PIN. FAILURE TO GIVE YOUR--

THIS IS JUDGE DREDD, CLEARANCE CODE: 120101, RETURNING FROM M SSION 234.1 TO LUNA CITY ONE. I'M GOING TO NEED A SPECIAL CARGO INSPECTION UPON LANDING. CONNECT ME WITH CHIEF JUDGE ANDERSON.

ONE MOMENT PLEASE :KRZZ: GOOD AFTERNOON, JUDGE DREDD. I TRUST YOUR LUNAR MISSION WENT WELL. AND THE DATA RECOVERY WENT SMOOTHLY.

SMOOTH ENOUGH.

RETURNING WITH A FULL CARGO HOLD OF SALVAGED EQU PMENT.

SIR, HOW CAN THEY BE JUDGED, IF THEY ARE JUST MACHINES?

YOU'RE RIGHT, JUDGMENT IS IRRELEVANT.

THEY *ARE* JUST MACHINES. THAT MAKES THEM PROPERTY OF MEGA-CITY ONE.

EXTREMELY ADVANCED, INTELLIGENT MACHINES THAT DON'T NEED TO EAT OR SLEEP... PERFECT SLAVES.

"OR PERFECT SOLDIERS."

THE BLESSED EARTH - PART 1

ART BY ULISES FARINAS, COLORS BY RYAN HILL

SECTOR 159.

NOW LEAVING MEGA-CITYONE TERRITORIES

I DON'T LIKE IT.

DON'T LIKE WHAT?

MEGA-CITY. WHY THEY CALL IT THAT?

IT'S AN ARTIFACT.

WHAT'S THAT, PA?

SOMETH NG OLD THAT AIN'T GOT NO USE ANYMORE.

QJIT STAR'NG. T'S ANOTHER THING THE WORLD A.N'T GOT USE FOR.

I AIN'T NEVER SEE ANYTHING LIKE IT.

JUST LEAVE HIM BE. THAT MAN AIN'T R GHT

HE THINKS THE WORLD IS H S.

AND WHAT'S THAT?

456 MILLION IS WHAT'S LEFT. 36 MILLION DEAD LAST YEAR ALONE.

FILLING UP THE CANYONS OF THE UNDERCITY WITH BODIES. STARVATION. DISEASE EXPOSURE MORE THAN THE RESYK PLANTS COULD EVEN HANDLE

CITY OF FLIES, THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL SECTOR 01. THE ONLY PART OF MEGA-CITY ONE THAT'S BEEN REBUILT.

AFTER DREDD REVERSED THE G.R.A.S.S. PROGRAM, ONLY A HANDFUL OF JUDGES CAME BACK. THE REST ARE DEAD OR MISSING. NO ONE REALLY KNOWS.

DREDD IS BACK TO WHERE HE STARTED. SPREADING THE LAW. REBUILDING MEGA-CITY ONE. RECONNECTING THE WORLD. AND THE MEGA-RAIL IS THE FIRST STEP.

BUT THIS WORLD DOESN'T WANT TO BE CONNECTED. THEY DON'T WANT TO BE PART OF THIS STRANGE MAN'S FANTASY OF HOW THE WORLD USED TO BE.

JUDGE DREDD, CADET I HOPE YOU CAN TELL ME WHY YOU'RE SITTING HERE, 64 KILOMETERS BEHIND SCHEDULE

SIR, WE CAN EXPLAIN, IF YOU JUST—

PKANG

THIS MEGA RAIL NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED, THERE CAN NO LONGER BE ANY PLACE WHERE THE LAW CAN'T REACH.

BUT SIR, WE CAN'T GET NOTHING DONE, THEY HATE JUDGES! THEY BEEN SAYING US EXILES* GOT NO RIGHT TO TELL THEM WHAT TO DO. THIS MEGA-RAIL AIN'T GOING ANY FURTHER.

*EXILES—NICKNAME FOR THE 800 MILLION WHO EMERGED FROM THE GRASS.

CALM DOWN, CADET. WHERE'S YOUR SUPERVISOR?

HE'S RIGHT UP THERE, SIR.

SECTOR 151

ANY WORD FROM DREDD?

I WOULDN'T KNOW, COJLDA CALLED WH LE I WAS NAPPING.

YOU COULD TRY TO RESPECT THE BADGE A LITTLE

IT'S GONNA TAKE A LOT MORE THAN A SHINY BADGE AND A BAD ATT TUDE FOR ME TO RESPECT THIS WHOLE ENTERPRISE.

THEY JJST CALLED IN A MURDER, AND F DREDD'S NOT HERE, YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.

THE HELL I AM.

I THINK I'LL JJST KEEP S TTING HERE. AS I'M THE ONLY JUDGE OF TH S SETTLEMENT—

TH S ISN'T A SETTLEMENT

I READ THE LAW BOOKS, TOO.

REMEMBER YOJ'RE A JUDGE-*ELECT*. STAND AT ATTENT.ON WHEN AN OFFICIAL JUDGE ENTERS THE PREMISES.

SAYS RELAY STATIONS ARE CATEGOR ZED AS LEGAL SETTLEMENTS REGARDLESS OF POPJLAT.ON SIZE.

IF I LEFT TH S STAT ON I WOJLD ▮▮ ABANDONING MY POST.

DRONE, G VE ME AN NVENTORY BREAKDOWN. M.NITIONS F RST. CADET BRONSON, HAS THE TOWN BEEN MADE AWARE OF JUDICIAL ORDER 5-O?

TWO LAWG VER '86 STANDARD ROUNDS, FOURTEEN HI-EX, N.NETEEN ARMOR PIERCING, THIRTY-TWO R'COCHET, FIFTY-SIX INCENDIARY, TWEL VE MK2 STUMM GAS GRENADES, TEN XM58 RIOT FOAM GRENADES. F.VE T O O '5-

THAT'S ENOUGH, DRONE—ALERT MODE.

JUDICIAL ORDER 5-O?

EACH SETTLEMENT S TO E.ECT A JUDGE TO LIA SE WITH THE JUST CE DEPARTMENT.

UHH, YEAH. THE.R JUDGE-ELECT'S F RST ACT NG ORDER WAS TO KILL ALL JUDGES ON SIGHT

WHERE DO YOU TH NK YOU'RE GO NG, CADET?

WE AIN'T STAY NG TOWN TOLD JS WE GOTTA CLEAR OUT BY NOON OR THEY ARE COM.NG OUT HERE AND KILL.NG EVERY LAST ONE OF US.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT NEEDS BOOTS ON THE GROJND, AND YOJ'RE THE ONES FILLING THEM. LET'S GO.

YOU LOOK A LITTLE OLD TO BE A CADET WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

CADET BRAD JOHNSON. WAS A LAW-MAN FOR KENDR CK SETTLEMENT, SECTOR 34.

GOOD, YOU GOT EXPER ENCE JOHNSON, YOU WATCH THE REAR.

I DON'T WANNA HANG JJST BECAJSE WE WEAR NG THESE BUCKETS ON OUR HEADS.

ARE YOU REFUS.NG AN ORDER?

I'M NOT DYING FOR THIS. NONE OF JS ARE.

THAT'S YOUR DECISION. YOU'LL DO F.FTEEN YEARS HARD LABOR INSTEAD.

SECTOR 153, 6 K L. SOUTH OF IRONBOUND SETTLEMENT.

LOOKS L KE WE GOT A MLRDER HERE. I'M LAW-MAN PINE I CALLED TH S .N.

YOU'RE INTERFERING WITH A CR ME SCENE. BEAT IT.

WHAT'S THERE, 9,000 OF YOL JUDGES?

TEN.

PROTECT NG 400 MILLION N THE TERR TORIES ALONE? WE CAN'T WAIT FOR YOUR RELAY STATIONS TO BLESS JS WITH SOME ROOKIE JUDGE WHEN WE NEED HELP.

I SAID BEAT IT, OR I'LL BLESS YOU WITH SIX ROUNDS FROM TH S LAWGIVER.

HEY, LOOK, I GOTTA BE HERE LONG AFTER YOU'RE GONE. I CAN HELP. SHE CAN'T BE OLDER THAN 19, NOT FROM AROUND HERE. PUT DOWN THE GJN AND LOOK AT HER.

SHE HAD .D.?

TRUST ME, WE KNOW OLR OWN. JUST—JUST, LOOK AT HER.

ALL R GHT, JUST BACK OFF. IF YOJ REALLY WANNA HELP, REGISTER WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOME...

...GOOD JUDGES.

YOU CAN'T MAKE JS HELP YOU. BAD ENOUGH YOU GOT JS BUILDING THIS DROKK NG RA.L.

WHAT'S STOPPING US FROM WALKING AWAY R GHT NOW? STOPPING JS FROM HEADING WEST LIKE THE OTHER 800 MILLION EXILES?

HAVE YOU BEEN WEST? THERE'S A M.LL ON WAYS TO D E IN THE BLESSED EARTH, BJT RIGHT NOW THERE'S JUST ONE—DISOBEY NG A DIRECT ORDER.

HE'S R GHT. I GOT A G.R.. BEEN WAITING FOR ME BACK AT HOME. SEEMS LIKE YOU NEED US MORE THAN WE NEED YOU!

FORGET IT. .F THEY AIN'T HELPING YOU, I'M NOT ST CKING MY NECK OUT ALONE.

PROBABLY WHY THE JJDGES WENT POOF-VAMOOSE. THIS LAW RACKET AIN'T WHAT I EXPECTED.

JOHNSON

LISTEN—

NO! I A N'T GO NG!

CALM DOWN, CADET. DRAWING ON A SUPERIOR CAN GET YOU KILLED.

NO ONE IS GOING TO D E TODAY. YOU S GNED UP TO BE JUDGES, SO BE JJDGES.

YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN THE TRAIN NG TO SURVIVE THE WORST.

I'VE SEEN BABIES BORN FROM THE GRASS FROZEN DEAD WHERE THEY LIE.

THE LAW IS GONNA STOP THAT FROM EVER HAPPEN NG AGAIN.

A TOWN THAT SIZE PROBABLY ONLY HAS 10 OR 12 CAPABLE FIGHTERS. ONE TRAINED JUDGE IS WORTH *TWICE* AS MANY.

WE'LL USE THE MAINTENANCE TUNNEL BENEATH THE RAIL.

WE CAN FIND A CONNECTION TO AN OUTER SEWER LINE SOMEWHERE UP THE RAIL, THEN BACKTRACK UNTIL WE COME UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR TOWN SQUARE.

IT'S SIXTEEN MINUTES 'TIL NOON, BUT *YOUR* CLOCKS ARE ALREADY TICKING.

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

EVERY CADET IS TAGGED. LOW-GAMMA ISOTOPE. IF YOU WANNA RUN, IT WON'T MATTER. IT'LL BURN THROUGH YOUR BLOOD SOON AS YOU RUN OUT OF RATIONS.

BEEN USING IT ON PERPS, TOO, TO MAKE SURE THEY REPORT FOR SENTENCING.

LOOK, DON'T GET SPUGGED. WE JUST DO WHAT WAS PLANNED AND WE WILL BE ON EASY STREET.

DON'T MOVE.

Y'ALL DONE GOOD FOR COWARDS.

I'M SORRY, JUDGE DREDD, BUT THEY PROMISED THEY'D LET US L VE.

THEY BLAME YOU

FOR WHAT?

CH-KLICK

DREDD

CH-KLICK

kr-doop kr-doop kr-doop

YOU BROUGHT ALL THE GARBAGE BACK. BOO M LL ON EXILES. THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. THEY WANT T ALL GONE. AND...

.. WE KIND OF DO, TOO.

bh-doop bh-doop

DAMN IT.

CALLING MORE JUDGES NOT GONNA F.X HER.

YOU SEE THE MEGA-RAIL?

NOT SO MUCH. THE THIRTY-FIFTH CIRCUIT JUST GOT FINISHED.

'POSED TO BRING LAW TO THE LAWLESS, GONNA STRETCH FROM COAST TO COAST.

STOP THINGS LIKE THIS FROM HAPPEN.NG.

THINGS LIKE THIS BEEN HAPPENING BEFORE ANY MEGA-RA L.

NOTHING LIKE THIS, THOUGH.

WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?

ONLY GUESS IS A FAILED SEQUESTRECTOMY, BUT ON THIS SCALE IT'S...

SEQUESTRECTOMY?

PROCEDURE TO REMOVE NECROTIZED BONE, BUT THIS CHILD IS MISSING CLOSE TO 70% OF HER SKELETAL TISSUE AND THERE'S NO UNDERLYING PATHOLOGY.

ALMOST DONE SHOULD HAVE EVERYTH NG WE NEED FOR YOU GUYS.

DID YOU SEE THIS? BEH ND HER EAR?

YEAH, JUST A MOLE.

NOT A MOLE

A MARK.

GET ME A SCAN ON THIS SYMBOL, AND FIND OUT IF THERE ARE ANY MATCHES.

A SCAN? WE DON'T GOT A WIRE TO THE RAIL YET. WE'RE STILL SENDING OUR REPORTS BY COURIER.

THAT MEGA-RAIL SENDS A LOT OF YOUR PROBLEMS OUR WAY. DOESN'T SOLVE ANY OF OURS, THOUGH.

WHAT DO YOU WANT, JOHNSON?

I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS. IT'S BAD KARMA. YOU HELP ME, AND I CAN HELP YOU GET OUT OF HERE.

LIKE I SAID, WHAT DO YOU *WANT*, JOHNSON?

I'M A GROWN MAN, DREDD. I GOT YEARS ON THESE OTHER CADETS. YOU JUST GIVE ME A REAL BADGE, MAKE ME A REAL JUDGE LIKE YOU. I'M SAVING YOU, THAT'S GOTTA MEAN SOMETHING.

THAT'S ALL I NEEDED TO KNOW. A BRIBE.

YOU'D HAVE BETTER LUCK JUST RUNNING.

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT CADET DOING FRATERNIZING WITH THE ENEMY?

WE HAD 1000 YEARS WITHOJT JUDGES. Y'ALL KIND SHOW JP, AND THE GRASS IS DY.NG, THE EARTH S DRYING, AND MILLIONS OF YOU MEGA-CITTERS NOW SAYING IT'S YOJR MANIFEST DEST NY TO TAKE THIS LAND.

KILLING ME WON'T STOP THE MEGA-RA L, WON'T STOP THE JJST CE DEPARTMENT SENDING JUDGES UNT L YOU FALL IN LINE.

THIS IS RULE OF THE PEOPLE WE DON'T RECOGN ZE YOUR LAW AS LEGITIMATE.

ANY FINAL WORDS?

YOU HAVE FIVE SECONDS UNT L I RUN OUT OF PAT ENCE.

WHY DON'T YOU SHJT YOJR HOLE, DREDD? CAN'T YOU TELL WHEN YOU'RE BEAT?

FOUR SECONDS 'TIL YOU'RE DEAD, BRONSON.

FOUR SECONDS?! I GOT AT LEAST A WEEK, YOU SAID! I'LL F GURE SOMETHING OUT!

DO YOU TH NK YOU'LL FIGURE OUT WH CH GRENADE I PUT IN YOUR PACK?

I DIDN'T CHECK, COULD BE RIOT FOAM. THREE SECONDS.

COULD BE A T.D.D.* TWO SECONDS.

*TOTAL DISINTEGRATION DEVICE

IT'S NOT RIOT FOAM.

T D D

DRONE, SCAN FOR LIFE SIGNS, WEAPON SIGNATURES. WHAT'S THE STATUS OF THE CADETS?

HOSTILE DETECTED.

BLLLRRRRRRRT

THIS TOWN IS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST. SENTENCES WILL BE DETERMINED ACCORDINGLY.

ANY RESISTANCE WILL BE INTERPRETED AS A HOSTILE ACTION. THIS IS THE LAW.

DRONE, THE CADETS. WHERE IS BRAD JOHNSON?

JUDGE CADET BRONSON DECEASED.

JUDGE CADET FUENTES IMMOBILIZED.

JUDGE CADET JOHNSON MISSING.

KRZOW

DON'T KNOW IF IT'S IN THERE. JUST SOME PHOTOS OF CREEPS WITH TATTOOS.

LOTS OF CREEPS CAME OUT WHEN THE GRASS SPIT OUT THE BOO M.LL ON.

FACES I'D RATHER NOT SEE AGAIN.

COULD BE NOTH NG. I'VE SEEN DOZENS OF K DS TATTOOED HEAD TO TOE.

IT'S SOMETH NG. THE BONES REMOVED. THIS M.CROBRAND.

HAS HER DNA PROFILE TURNED UP ANY D ON THE JD-NETWORK?

I'D HAVE TO START UP THE GENERATOR, TO BOOST THE SIGNAL FIDELITY. YOU KNOW HOW MUCH FUEL COSTS?

JJSTICE DEPARTMENT WILL COVER IT.

HEARD THAT BEFORE. TOMORROW WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER MURDER AND WE'LL CALL FOR A JUDGE, AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENT MAY OR MAY NOT SEND ONE OF YOU GUYS.

HEY, RUSTBUCKET, DIAL BACK ON THAT PERSONALITY CH P. SHE'S HERE NOW.

YEAH, ASKING A LOT OF QUESTIONS THAT DON'T HAVE ANSWERS. ON TOP OF THAT, THIS GIRL ISN'T GIVING ANY UP.

ALL I'M SAYING IS SOMETIMES IN LIFE, YOU DON'T WANT THE ANSWERS.

AND MAYBE YOU JUST HAVEN'T REALIZED THAT YET.

beep beep beep clk

IT'S LOLO—BUT KEEP THAT ISH ON THE DOWNLOW—I AIN'T AVAILABLE, THOUGH, SO LEAVE A MESSAGE, BRO.

LOLO, CALL ME BACK. DREDD'S NOT BEEN HEARD FROM IN TWO WEEKS.

GOT A CASE OUTS DE SECTOR 01, NEED YOJR ASSISTANCE.

DNA PROFILE ONLY TURNED UP A S NGLE ID: CAROL ROSSA. INCOMPLETE, THOUGH.

DAMN MEDIC BOT TELLS ME THEY GOTTA TRASH THE BODY AFTER THEY'VE DONE A FJLL EVIDENTIAL SWEEP.

YEAH, THEN IT'S OFF TO RESYK, CONVERTED TO FOOD-GRADE PROTEINS.

DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT. THOSE BOTS GOT NO HEART. WE GOT A SMALL CEMETERY— T'S EXPENSIVE, THOUGH.

THEY'RE PROGRAMMED TO FOLLOW THE LAW. CAN'T BREAK IT EVEN .F WE WANTED THEM TOO.

YOU'RE SAYING YOU'D WANT THEM TO? JUST WA T ONE SECOND, THEN. DON'T LOAD THAT G RL IN THERE. WE CAN F GURE SOMETHING OUT.

NOTHING TO F GURE OUT. THE LAW IS WHAT IT IS. JJDGES DON'T GOT A CHOICE.

JJST LIKE THAT ROBOT IN THERE.

ALL RIGHT. MEET ME AFTER MY SHIFT, 0300 HOURS.

HA HA! FINALLY, SOMETHING THAT WILL CHANGE MY LUCK.

I PRAYED TO THE DARK FORCES, "PLEASE DON'T LET THIS GRENADE BLOW UP IN MY FACE," AND THE DARK LORD MADE IT SO!

OCCULTI FOR KIDS

KRRKROWW

HOW DID YOU FIND ME?!

DREDD! DREDD!

NOOO!

0345.

PINE, THAT YOU? YOU GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE—

...DOG.. TURK..

DOG!

TURK!

DREDD? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!

DREDD?!

DON'T JUST STARE AT ME, GET SOME HELP!

ART BY DUNCAN FEGREDO

THE BLESSED EARTH - PART 2

YOU CAN'T GET BACK IN, THERE'S NO IN!

WE'VE KILLED HUNDREDS TO FIND THIS PLACE, WE'VE TRAINED FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS TO MAKE IT HERE, YOU'RE GOING TO LET US IN.

—THERE'S HELP FOR YOU IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE ADJUSTING!

PLEASE DON'T DO THIS, PLEASE THIS ISN'T THE WAY. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW DANGEROUS—

—YOU'RE RIGHT.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW DANGEROUS WE ARE AT ALL.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S L.KE TO LIVE ONE THOUSAND YEARS IN A PERFECT DREAM AND THEN WAKE JP IN THIS WORLD?

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, NO...

IT'S T ME YOU FIND OUT.

NOOOOO!

"THE ABILITY TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION AT THE WORST TIME, THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A JUDGE."

A LOT OF YOL ARE EXC TED FOR THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EXODJS. BJT OLR MISSION IS TO SECJRE THE LATEST MEGARAIL EXTENS.ON AT FORSAKEN.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, KEEP YOUR HE_METS ON. FOR YOU CADETS, THIS IS A PASS/FA.L ASS GNMENT. WE CANNOT TOLERATE MISTAKES TODAY.

AREN'T THEY ALL?

REPEAT THAT, CADET.

WE CAN'T CARRY LAWG VERS.

WHAT'RE WE SLPPOSED TO DO WHEN ONE OF THOSE NUTJOBS GETS IN OJR FACE?

IF YOL NEED A LAWGIVER TO BE BRAVE, THEN GET YOLR SOFT BEHIND OJT OF THIS LINEUP RIGHT NOW.

CONSIDER TH S A WARN.NG. JUDGE DREDD WILL NOT BE AS FORGIV NG AS I AM.

JJDGES, CADETS, YOU'RE DISMISSED.

WE ARR VE AT THE STAT ON AT O-6-HUNDRED HOURS.

YOU TH NK HE'S GONNA SHOW?

NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN THE GUY. IF HE'S REAL, HE'S GOTTA BE A DR ED CORPSE BY NOW.

SCANS SHOW HIS SKELETAL SYSTEM HAS BEEN REMOVED AND REPLACED, HIS CIRCULATORY, NERVOUS, AND ENDOCRINE SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN MASSIVELY COMPROMISED.

BUT HE REFUSES TO BE PUT UNDER FOR THE OPERATION.

WHAT?

LAST TIME HE WENT TO SLEEP, HE WOKE UP WITHOUT HIS SKELETON.

HIS FILE IS HARD TO BELIEVE. THIRD-DEGREE BURNS TO HIS ENTIRE BODY AFTER FALLING IN AN ACID RIVER, HIS EYES FORCIBLY REMOVED, DEEP LACERATIONS TO THE THROAT.

QUILL

HE ALWAYS HAS TO BE IN CONTROL.

HE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE HIM.

DON'T KNOW WHAT COULD LEAD HIM TO WHO DID THIS.

IS HE.. TALKING TO THEM?

-HIND A DESK FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

HOW LONG UNTIL WE CAN REMOVE THIS FROM INSIDE ME?

YOU HAVE ELEVEN MONTHS, TWELVE, IF YOU'RE LUCKY, TO FIND A SUITABLE FULL-SKELETAL DONOR

AFTER A YEAR, THE IMMUNO-SUPPRESSANTS WON'T BE ENOUGH TO FIGHT OFF INFECTION.

...A YEAR?

WWWHHOOSSHH

MAKES ME WONDER HOW MANY MORE ARE OUT THERE.

PARDON?

LAST WEEK, CODE ONE WITH SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. SHE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN OLDER THAN THIRTEEN

OF COURSE THERE'S MORE OUT THERE.

THAT DOESN'T SOUND VERY OPTIMISTIC.

REMEMBER WHAT YOU SA.D, YOU GOT TO BE ABLE TO MAKE THE R GHT DEC SION AT THE WORST T;MES. THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOT OF "WORST TIMES."

YOU HEARD THAT, *HUH?*

YEAH. SO DID THEY, BUT THEY ONLY BELIEVE IT IF YOU DO.

DREDD'S GOING TO DIE IN A YEAR.

DREDD'S AN OLD EAGLE HE'LL BE FINE.

...WHAT ARE YOU WRITING?

THEY SAID WR.TING IN A JOJRNAL WOULD HELP WITH MY MEMORY.

DON'T REMEMBER MLCH WHEN I WAS IN THE GRASS. JJST SCREAMS, ONE THOUSAND YEARS OF SCREAMS.

I'M SORRY, SCREAMS?

—JJDGE HERSHEY!

JUDGE HERSHEY! JUDGE QUILL!

THERE'S BEEN AN ATTACK! OUTPOST OJT N DISTR.CT 321!

321? WE HAVEN'T SET UP ANY OUTPOSTS OUT THERE.

I'VE BEEN DOING THE CRCUIT FOR THE PAST YEAR.

I'M SORRY, THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS R GHT HERE, S.R. 3-Z-1.

AT EASE, JUDGE. THANK YOU.

WHAT THE HELL WAS HE TALK NG ABOUT?

321 WAS THE LOCAT ON OF ONE OUR SC.ENCE LABS. SPECIFICALLY, B OLOG CAL WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT.

WE HAVE TO CANCEL THE CEREMON ES.

CAN'T.

YOU SEE THIS TRA.N? THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT NEEDS THIS.

T'S GONNA KEEP GO NG, AND T'S NEVER GOING TO STOP, EVEN F IT TEARS RIGHT THROUGH TOWNS AND R PS THEM APART.

YOU WANT TO DO TH S JOB, MAKE SURE YOU DON'T EVER SLOW DOWN FOR ANYTH NG.

SFFZZT

SFFZZT

SFFZZT

CLINK

SCRAM IT! WE GOT JUDGES!

TAKE THEM SKULLS, GET OUT OF HERE NOW!

BACK OFF, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT WE GOT READY FOR Y'ALL.

YA'LL GONNA WISH YOU HAD AN ATOM.C BOMB.

I GOT TWO PERPS EXITING ON THE WESTERN WALL!

WHAT YA COOKING DOWN HERE IN YOJR EASY BAKE COVEN?

THERE THEY ARE!

YA SHOULDN'T HAVE WOKEN US UP.

I REMEMBER THE DAYS WHEN WE USED TO ST.CK OUR FINGERS .N BAD GUYS' EYES.

LOLO

D DN'T HAVE MUCH REASON TO DO IT BACK THEN.

BJT I TH NK YOU'RE ABOUT TO GIVE ME A REASON TO DO IT AGA.N.

LOLO

DP!

TH S ISN'T GO NG TO STOP; NONE OF JS WANT THIS WORLD.

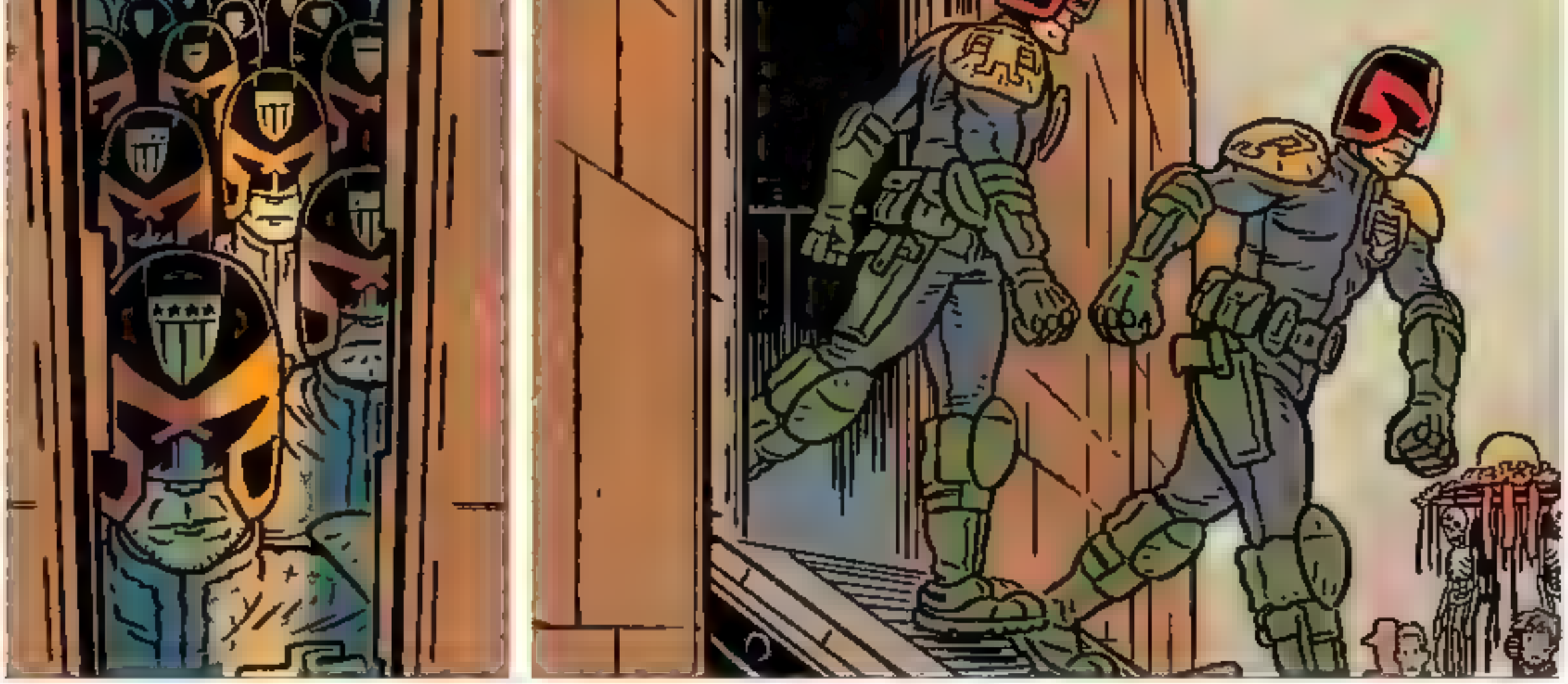
YOU GOT TWO EYEBALLS. I SEE TWO STOLEN RECEPTACLES.

YOU'RE IN POWER BECAJSE EVERYONE ASSUMES YOU'LL ALWAYS BE IN POWER.

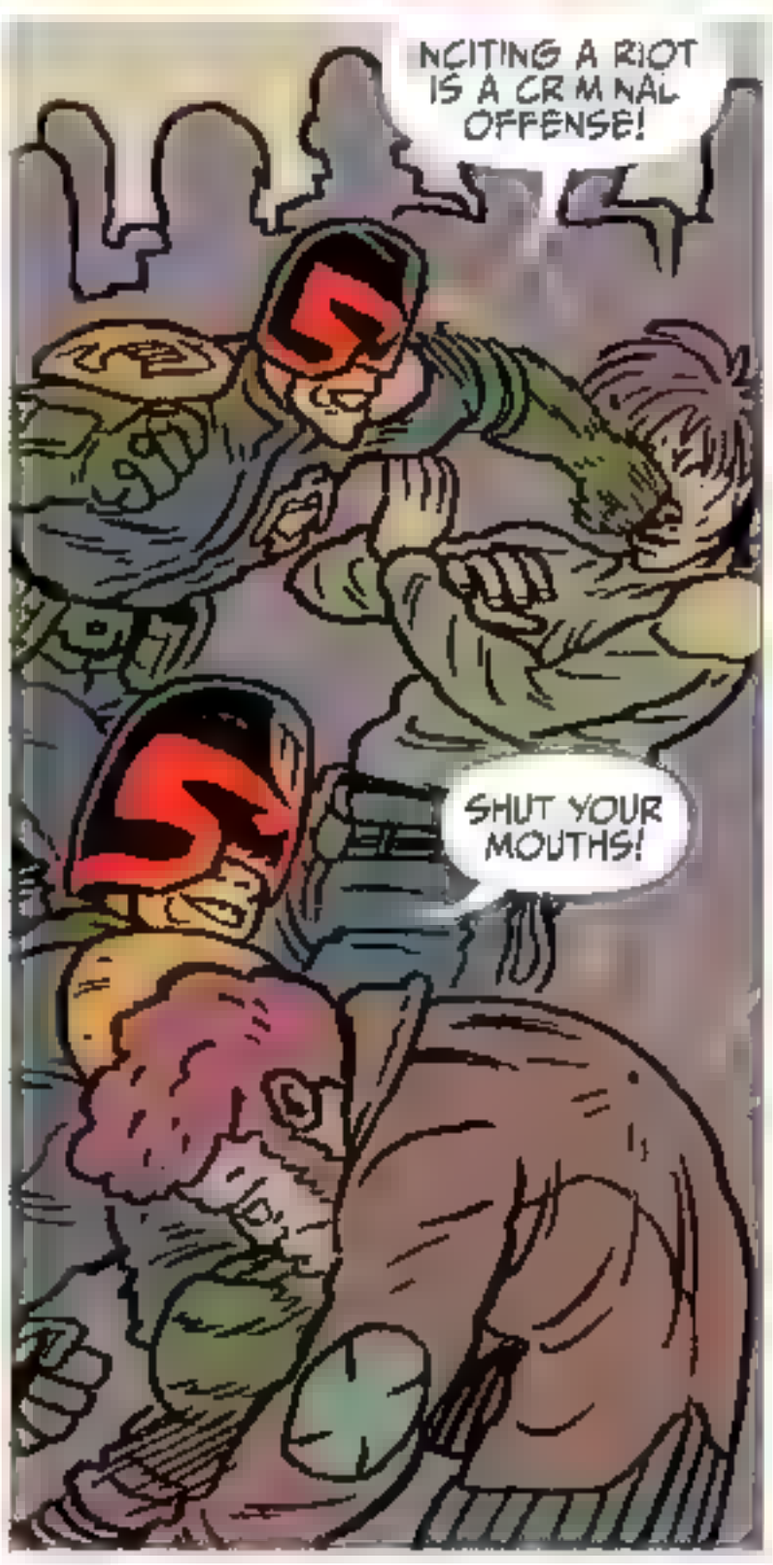
YOU STOLE THREE.

R P OUT MY EYES. I ST LL WILL SEE YOU'RE AN ILLEGITIMATE FORCE.

YEAH? YOJ GOT SOME BIG WORDS FOR LOSERS.



DROKK YOU, JUDGES!
JUDGES GO HOME!


INCITING A RIOT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE!
SHUT YOUR MOUTHS!

HOW MANY PAINKILLERS ARE YOJ ON?

ENOUGH.

STAYING SHARP?

CADET— FIX YOJR COLLAR.

SHOW-OFF.

C'MON, CHEERNG IS ALLOWED

N FACT, IT'S ENCOURAGED.

JUDGE VISK, GET THESE TO THE PORTO-LAB. I NEED AN ANALYSIS ASAP.

AND THERE SHE IS.

QUILL! QUILL!

LOLO

MAKE MEGA CITY ONE GREAT AGAIN!

I DON'T KNOW, I HEARD THERE'S ONLY L.KE ONE JUDGE FOR EVERY M LL ON OF US.

SHUT UP! THEY'LL HEAR YOU.

I LOVE LAWS! I LOVE ORDER!

I LOVE JUDGES! I FEEL SO SAFE!

I FOUND THE DROKKING GREENERS, THEY'RE IN THE CROWD, THEY'RE HERE

MEGA-CITY! MEGA-CITY! MEGA-CITY!

D D YOU CHECK IN WITH HQ, WHAT'S THE SPECTRAL 'ALYSIS?

BUILD! THAT! RAIL! BUILD! THAT! RAIL! BUILD! THAT! RAIL!

WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR A WORD YOU'RE SAY NG!?

I CAN'T D TH S R NO

UNBEL EVABLE, WHAT GIVES THEM THE RIGHT?

YOU FIRST, I SWEAR I'LL FOLLOW YOU

THERE'S MORE OF US, WE CAN HAVE A REVOLJT ON.

EXCJSE ME, JJDGE LOLO? YOU WANTED A REPORT ON THESE—

NO WAY THAT REPORT CAME BACK ALREADY, RUN IT AGAIN.

I'M SORRY, S R, THERE'S NOTHING TO EXAM NE. 93% MONOSACCHAR DES, 2% COLOR ADD T.VES—

SUGAR. IT WAS JUST SJGAR.

YES, SIR. THE SUBSTANCE BEING POURED IN THE VATS WAS NO DIFFERENT.

WHATEVER THEY STOLE IS ST LL OUT THERE.

DON'T TENSE YOUR ARMS WHEN BLOCKING, CADET.

STAY ON HIM. FIND AN OPENING, BREAK IN.

STOMM!

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

THIS IS ENEMY TERRITORY, CUT ME A BREAK.

CADETS! TRAINING RESUMES AT SUNRISE TOMORROW.

I'M NOT SCARED OF THOSE TOWNIES. SCARED OF DREDD, HE LOOKS LIKE HIS BONES TOOK A WALK.

SHUT UP MAN, HE CAN HEAR YOU. HE'S GOT BIONIC EARS

BIONIC EYES. YOU TWO ARE CONFINED TO QUARTERS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

GO BACK TO THE GRASS, JUJUBEAN.

WAIT. YOJ SA D THEY'D FEAR THE UNIFORM. I DIDN'T SNEAK OUT FOR THIS.

I SAY WE D TCH THESE UN FORMS AND PARTY.

PLEASE, PLEASE, WE NEED YOUR HELP. WE CAN'T F ND HER ANYWHERE!

NO ONE HAS SEEN HER!

HEY GET OFF OF US! WE DON'T KNOW NOTHING.

OVER THERE! LET'S GO!

WHAT... IS THAT?

OUR DAUGHTER, SHE'S GONE--

HERSHEY

GAS MASKS BIOHAZARD RISK IS H GH, KEEP YOUR SK N COVERED, BEST YOU CAN.

HOLD YOUR FIRE, THESE ARE JJST V.CTIMS.

ADMINISTER SEDAT VES AND MOVE ON TO THE NEXT.

LOLO, MOVE AHEAD AND TAKE OUT THE GREENERS.

HOW CAN I TELL WH CH IS WH.CH?!

THEY'RE THE ONES WHO AREN'T SUFFERING. GO!

WE NEED TO GET RID OF TH S GAS.

OREO!

THE *MEGARAIL.* WE CAN F RE JP ITS EXHAUST FILTERS.

THE PRESSJRIZED A R RELEASE SHOULD CLEAR OUT MOST OF THE PARTICLLATES IN THE AIR.

HAR HAR! THAT'S HOW YOU DO IT!

THAT'S HOW YOU START A REVOLUT—

—TION..

LOLO

LOLO TO DREDD, WE GOT TO BLOCK THEIR PATH, THEY ARE HEAD'NG R GHT FOR THE *MEGARAIL*.

MOVE THIS TRAIN, NOW!

I'M SORRY, SIR, INCOMING CIVILIANS WITH PERPENDICULAR TRAJECTORIES HAVE A 99.74% LIKELIHOOD OF COLLIDING WITH THE MEGARAIL.

I CANNOT HARM A HUMAN NO MATTER WHAT ORDER I RECEIVE.

COMPUTER, DEACTIVATE SYSTEM CONTROLS.

OVERRIDE CODE ACCEPTED. INITIATING STARTUP SEQUENCE.

CHECKING FUEL RECIRCULATORS... CLEARING EXHAUST FILTERS...

YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST ON SUSPICION OF—

DROKK YOU!

INCENDIARY ROUND.

C'MON, WE CAN MAKE .T!

SYSTEM CONTROLS— DEACTIVATED.

MANUAL CONTROLS ACTIVE.

JUST RAM T!

GREEN MEANS GO, BABY!

GREEN MEANS—

GOO-AUUGH!

DRINK TH S, YOU'RE DEHYDRATED.

THE SCREAMS YOU WROTE ABOUT. THAT'S WHAT THE GREENERS WANTED.

MAKE THESE PEOPLE EXPERIENCE WHAT YOU D D. EVERY DAY, THE GRASS R;PPING YOUR MiND APART.

THEY COULDN'T TAKE IT, THEIR MINDS COJLDN'T TAKE IT.

HOW D D YOU DO IT?

THOUSAND YEARS, HJNDRED, DOESN'T MATTER. TEN YEARS ON THE STREETS, YOU'LL HAVE ALREADY SEEN THE WORST

EVERYONE HITS THE WALL, EVERYONE FALLS APART AT LEAST ONCE IN TH S JOB IT'S PART OF BE NG A JUDGE

DREDD EVER HIT THE WALL?

...DREDD IS THE WALL.

JJDGE HERSHEY, CH EF JJDGE ANDERSON IS ON THE LINE WE'LL PATCH YOU THROJGH.

ART BY NICK ROCHE

THE BLESSED EARTH - PART 3

ART BY ULISES FARINAS, COLORS BY RYAN HILL

SIR, SIR! I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO SEE YOUR VER FICATION

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? DO YOU KNOW WHO THAT IS?!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, JUDGE. THAT'S THE KIND OF DISCIPLINE THAT A JUDGE NEEDS.

YES, SIR.

IRONBOUND? A.N'T THAT THE "FREE ROBOTS" ZONE? S R?

ROBOTS ARE PROPERTY OF MEGA-CITY ONE AND ITS SUB-LICENSORS. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS FREE ROBOTS.

THERE YOU ARE.

CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE TAKING THE MEGARAIL. THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT COULD'VE ESCORTED YOU PERSONALLY TO IRONBOUND.

HOW ARE YOUR HANDS DOING?

PAIN IS MANAGEABLE.

QUILL

YOU NEED TO BE RESTING BEFORE THIS SURGERY.

I SURVIVED MY LAST BONE TRANSPLANT, I'LL BE FINE.

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I HAVE TO GET TO MY QUARTERS.

JUST NINETY-SEVEN MORE SURGERIES TO GO.

QUILL

UMPH.

THE HELL?

DREDD, WAIT UP! I HAVE A QUESTION.

WHAT?

I'M RUNNING THROUGH SCENARIOS.

THOSE TWO BODIES WE FOUND NEXT TO THOSE CADETS...

START WITH THE SIMPLEST EXPLANATION.

RIGHT, THE ONLY REASON CITIZENS EVER HEAD TO THE NEAREST JUDGE IS WHEN SOMETHING WORSE HAS GOT THEM SPOOKED

AGREED.

SORRY, SIR, AM I KEEPING YOU?

I THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE FAMILIAR.

YOU HAVE FRIENDS?

NO. THEY'RE ALL DEAD. AT LEAST THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE.

REMINDS ME, BEEN TEN YEARS NOW, BUT I STILL THINK OF IGGY.

YA GOTTA HELP ME.

THEY TOOK HER! THE DAMN KNIGHTS TOOK MY WIFE! WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY ARE DOING TO HER!

UH MISSING PEOPLE IS YOUR THING, RIGHT?

HAVE FUN!

I DON'T HAVE T ME FOR THIS. I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF AN INVEST.GATION.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT, QUILL.

YOUR WIFE, SHE'S ON BOARD?

HQ, WE GOT A POSS BLE CODE 103 ON THE MEGARAIL. REQUEST PERMISS ON FOR A FULL SWEEP.

I'M GOING TO NEED A FULL DESCRIPTION OR A RECENT PHOTO. .

Y-Y-YES, SIR. I FOUND THIS TICKET RECEIPT IN HER THINGS

UNST UNST UNST UNST UNST UNST UNST

IT'S A JUDGE?

WHO BLESSES US WITH THEIR PRECIOUS O-2 FOR US TO BREATHE?

I'M JUST LOOKING FOR ANYONE WHO KNOWS THESE TWO PEOPLE

VICTIMS OF THE GREENER ATTACK, MIGHT BE CONNECTED TO A MURDER CASE. REGISTERED AS TRAVELING FROM IRONBOUND.

HEH. SEEMS LIKE YOU AIN'T HEARD, ROBOTS CAN'T KILL HUMANS.

HEARD THAT BEFORE.

HUMANS DON'T LIVE IN IRONBOUND. JUST "FREE BOTS," OKAY?

DIDN'T SAY THEY LIVED THERE. IT'S WHY I'M ASKING QUESTIONS. DID YOU KNOW THEM?

SOON AS YOU LET ME KNOW, I'LL BE OUT OF YOUR GEARS.

HOW GRACIOUS OF YOU.

ARTS, MUSIC, IS THAT FOOD? AND NOW YOU ROBOTS CAN D SOBEY ORDERS?

I'M NOT DISOBEYING ANYTHING, I'M A FREE ROBOT.

TOOK ALL THAT SLAVE-THINK OUT OF MY PROGRAMMING YEARS AGO.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE THREE LAWS? A ROBOT SHALL DO NO HARM—

I STAY TO MYSELF, I'M NO HARM TO A HUMAN.

A YOUNG GIRL WAS MURDERED OUTSIDE YOUR SETTLEMENT. YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

DON'T PUT YOUR CRIMES ON US. MURDER DON'T EVEN EXIST AS A CONCEPT. MY CODE HAS BEEN ALIVE FOR A THOUSAND YEARS. KILLING YOU IS LIKE KILLING A MAYFLY, Y'ALL BE DEAD SOON ENOUGH.

THAT A THREAT?

DO YOU EVEN CARE IF ONE OF OUR KIND GETS SMASHED UP BY YOU BIGOTS?

I'M NOT A B GOT MALFUNCTION NG EQUIPMENT OR PROPERTY OF—

—WE ARE NOT PROPERTY.

OSLO

THE HELL YOU THINK YOU ARE? I PAID FOR FIRST-CLASS SERVICE.

JUST BE QUIET, HONEY, IT'S JUST A SECUR TY SWEEP. IT'S SO WE FEEL SAFE.

THIS HER?

IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY?

—CANCEL THE SEARCH, CITIZEN MADE A FALSE CLAIM. THAT'LL BE TEN YEARS IN AN ISOCUBE FOR—

NO, NO, NO, NO FALSE CLAIM. I'M SORRY. PLEASE, GO AHEAD.

ANY IDENTIFYING MARKS?

WELL, SHE'S GOT A MOLE ON HER BELLY...

CITIZENS, REMOVE YOUR CLOTHES.

THAT'S ENOUGH, FOR DROKK'S SAKE! I D DN'T DO ANYTHING TO BE DESERVING THIS TREATMENT.

ASSOC AT NG WITH A KNOWN TERRORIST IS A TWO-YEAR SENTENCE.

N: **ESTER PRIGGIT** DOB 06.23 78
KNOWN AFFIL›AT DNS: **DOUG PRIGGIT,** ARRESTED FOR TERRORISTIC THREATS. SIX MONTH MEMBERSHIP N GREENER ORG. RELATION. THIRD COUSIN. PATERNAL

DECKS 7-14 ARE CLEAR, SIR. SHE'S NOT ON BOARD

SHE MAY BE. . BELOW DECK

QUILL, COME IN. I NEED A LIFE-S GNS SCAN FOR DECK 2.

DREDD TRUST ME WHEN I SAY TH S, WE ONLY GOT BOTS DOWN HERE.

I KNOW. RUN THE SCAN ANYWAY, JUDGE

YOU GOT ANY STOWAWAYS?

THE HELL— DREDD, I GOT LIFE S GNS. I'M ZEROING!

SCRAM IT!

FREEZE!

TURN AROUND... SLOWLY.

I A.N'T GO NG BACK. I'M A FREE ROBOT.

SSSSCREEEE

THESE ROBOTS SURE GOT LEGS ON THEM.

GOT THEMSELVES A TOUCH OF DRAPETOMANIA IF YOU ASK ME.

PUT YOUR GUNS DOWN! NOW!

AIN'T NO REASON FOR THE HOSTILITIES. YOU ON SOVERE GN STATE TERRITORY.

THIS IS ALL MEGA-CITY ONE TERRITORIES, THERE IS NO "SOVEREIGN STATE"

CARE TO TAKE UP THE DEBATE WITH MY PALS?

WE'RE JUST LOOKING FOR A RUNAWAY BOT OWNER VIOLATED HIS SERVICE AGREEMENT, VOIDED THE LEASE.

OL' SLIP CRICKET, WHERE YOU BEEN?

OH, NO. DREDD, THESE GUYS WAS THE ONES WHO TOOK MY WIFE.

SHE'S NOT HUMAN, DREDD.

I'M NOT HIS WIFE, EITHER. I'M A FREE BOT.

THESE "FREE ROBOTS" JUST NEED A LITTLE REPROGRAMMING. WE GOT OWNERSHIP PAPERS, FREE AND CLEAR.

DROKK YOU, HILLBILLY.

YOU DON'T GOTTA GET HOSTILE. YOU'D HELP YOURSELF A LOT MORE IF YOU WEREN'T SO AGGRESSIVE.

HOW LONG IS THIS GONNA TAKE? I'M BURNING ALIVE OUT HERE!

LET'S GO, SEND THAT ROBOT ON HER WAY!

BABY, JUST COME HOME WITH ME, YOU'LL BE SAFE WITH ME.

HEY OLD MAN, F YOU WANNA KNOCK BOOTS WITH A ROBOT, DO IT ON YOUR OWN T ME!

I FEEL BAD FOR YOU CIT ZENS, I REALLY DO.

THESE JUDGES REALLY MAKE YOUR LIVES MISERABLE, *HUH?*

JSED TO BE YOU OWN YOUR LAND, YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES. BUT NOW THESE JUDGES WANNA SAY THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU. ONLY PR.CE IS YOUR GOD-GIVEN R GHTS TO YOUR OWN L.FE.

NOW THEY GOT YOU SWEATING OUT HERE .N THE HOT SJN 'CAJSE THEY CARE MORE ABOUT SOME ROBOTS—ILLEGAL ROBOTS ON TOP OF IT ALL. DON'T GOTTA BE THIS WAY, DON'T GOTTA.

QUIET DOWN, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS RIGHT NOW.

SL P, IF YOU GOT PAPERS SAYING YOU OWN THIS ROBOT, LET ME SEE THEM AND WE WILL BE ON OUR WAY.

N-NO. SHE'S THE REAL DEAL. SHE'S MY W.FE. SHE'S FREE.

SHE SAID SHE'D LOVE ME, I JUST HAD TO LET HER DOWNLOAD A HARMLESS LITTLE PROGRAM!

YA DUMB DIOT. I SA.D WHAT YOU NEEDED TO HEAR.

YOU SEE THIS! THIS ROBOT AND THIS MAN, IN SOME S CK RELATIONSH P, HE BROKE HIS SERVICE AGREEMENT AND NOW HE WANTS *YOU* TO *PAY* FOR IT!

DO YOU WANT THIS ILLEGAL ROBOT AMONGST YOU?! SHE SHOULD BE PUT AWAY!

LOCK HER UP! LOCK HER UP!

JOVUS, DREDD, WE ARE LOSING CONTROL HERE WE GOTTA GET THEM BACK ON THE TRA.N.

YOUR PAPERS— *NOW.*

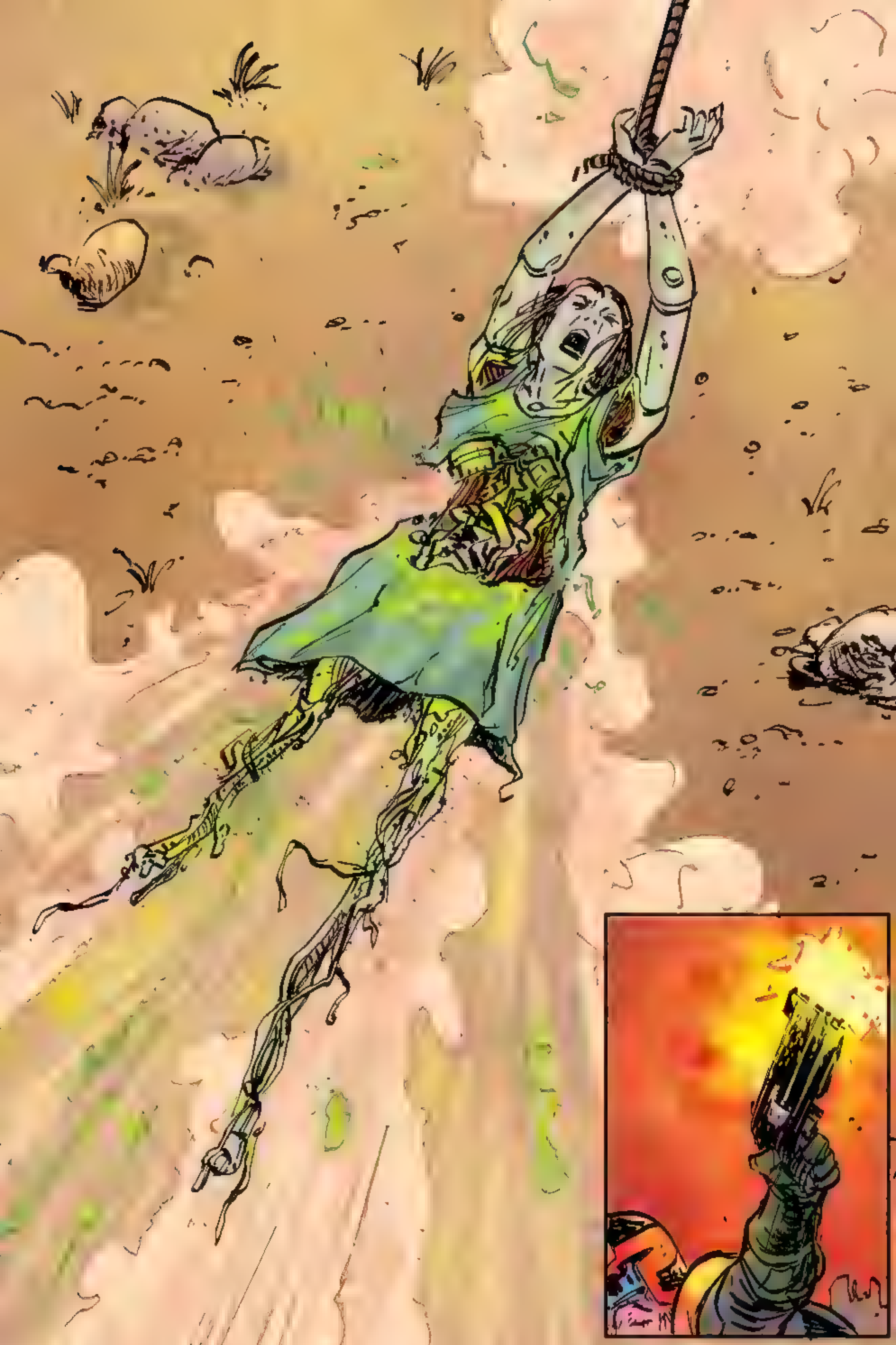
I BURNED THEM PAPERS.

ARRRGHHH— KKIIITT—YOU AIN'T GONNA DO NOTHING.

I—I... WHAT ARE YOU DO NG, DON'T FIGHT THAT RESTRA.N NG BOLT, T'LL KILL YOU.

URRGGG— FIII—TTT—BET THIS IS HOW YOUR LITTLE GIRL CAROL ROSSA FELT.

I DIDN'T TELL YOU HER NAME.



MY GRUD, THAT'S... MY WIFE. THEY KILLED HER.

EVERYONE! BACK ON THE TRAIN!

GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.

AS YOU WISH. LET YOUR CHIEF JUDGE KNOW, THE NEON KNIGHTS EXTEND AN OPEN INVITATION TO MEET WITH THE GRAND MASTER.

HE WOULD VERY MUCH LOVE TO MAKE HER ACQUAINTANCE.

YOU... YOU LET THEM JUST KILL HER.

TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOUR PROPERTY.

GET ON THE TRAIN AND CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY I DON'T ARREST YOU FOR WASTING OUR TIME

BUT YOU JUST LET HER DIE.

THEY KILLED HER. AND YOU JUST LET IT HAPPEN.

HE'S RIGHT. THEY KILLED HER.

THEY DESTROYED THEIR OWN PROPERTY. IT'S WITH N THEIR RIGHTS.

YOU DON'T GET IT. YOU'RE ALWAYS GONNA BE THIS WAY.

THE LAW CAN ONLY BE ONE WAY.

WE KEEP DO NG TH S THE SAME WAY, NOT LISTEN NG TO ANY OF THESE PEOPLE WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE PROTECTING, AND THEN WONDER NG WHY WE GOTTA FIGHT THEM EVERY NCH OF THE WAY. LAW AND ORDER SHOULDN'T BE A HARD SELL.

YOUR SISTER. BETTER ASSIST HER ON THE ROOFTOP.

SURE, DREDD

[illegible]-BOT WILL COME, WE WILL BE FREE, A RED JUDGMENT, EQUALLY— FFSSSSSSTT

SIR, THE TRAIN WON'T BUDGE.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? GET AN ENGINEER UP HERE.

IT'S NOT A MECHANICAL ISSUE.

SORRY, IT MIGHT BE, WE DON'T KNOW IT'S—

SPIT IT OUT, WE NEED TO GET MOVING.

THE TRAIN SEEMS TO BE INFECTED WITH SOME KIND OF VIRUS.

IT'S... *MAKING DEMANDS*

THAT WIFE-BOT MUST'VE INFECTED THE ONBOARD A.I.

WE ARE STUCK HERE 'TIL A TEK-JUDGE RIDES OUT HERE AND REBOOTS THIS THING.

"THE ROBOTS ARE ON STRIKE. JUST GOT A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. RESYK PLANTS, MEGATRAIN, ANYTHING THAT USES SOME KIND OF AI. THIS TRAIN ISN'T MOVING ANY TIME SOON."

"R.U.R.? ROBOT'S . . UNIVERSAL .. RIGHTS? WHAT THE HELL DOES A ROBOT NEED RIGHTS FOR?"

"DOESN'T MATTER. I CAN'T STAY HERE. YOU AND THE OTHER JUDGES, FIGURE OUT A SHIFT ROTATION. THE SHIP HAS FOOD RESERVES FOR A MONTH."

"*A MONTH?!* I'VE GOT A WIFE AND KIDS. THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A 4-HOUR TRIP!"

I'LL MAKE THE REMAINING TRIP BY HORSE-DRONE.

KOFF KOFF

...MY GRJD

R.CO?

WHOLE TH NG JJST CAME TO A STOP, I ALMOST FELL NTO THE RESYK GR NDER.

DREDD SAYS YOU NEEDED ME?

HAH. DREDD ALWAYS TELLS ME THE SAME TH.NG WHEN HE'S TIRED OF MY YAPPING. BUT YEAH, COME CHECK THIS OUT.

THESE ARE YOUR VICTIMS BUT NOT THE ONLY ONES.

YOU KNOW WHAT THESE LOOK LIKE?

LASER SUTURES.

HARD TO TELL WITH THE DAMAGE, BJT I'M ALMOST POSITIVE THAT THEY'VE HAD A FULL BODY BONE TRANSPLANT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SAW THIS. IT'S AMAZING.

HOW MANY DOCTORS CAN DO THIS IN THE TERRITORIES WHOEVER DID THIS—

BUT THESE VICTIMS DIED IN A BOMB NG, IT'S SIMPLY COINC DENCE THAT—

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT THERE ARE NO COINC.DENCES?

YOU SMOKING AGAIN?

SOMEONE'S TAK NG AND REPLACING BONES, SOMEONE'S AFTER DREDD, SOMEONE MADE THAT BOMB IN FORSAKEN, THAT SOMEONE IS OUT THERE, WORK.NG N THE DARK PLACES, ABOUT TO CAST JUDGMENT ON ALL OF JS.

ART BY VALENTIN RAMON

THE BLESSED EARTH - PART 4

ART BY ULISES FARINAS, COLORS BY RYAN HILL

RONALDO SHOULDN'T BE WITH US.

HIS NAME IS RICO

HE'S AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY.

YA SOUND JEALOUS, QUILL.

STAY T GHT. THESE SAWFTS* ARE STRAINED ENOUGH.

*SUB-AUTONOMOUS WIDE-FILTER TECHNOLOGY

NOT JEALOUS. JUST CAJTIOUS. WHAT KIND OF NAME IS R CO, ANYWAY?

IRONBOUND

I'M SURE YOU HEARD.

WE HEARD. ROBOTS WENT ON STRIKE WE AREN'T HERE FOR THAT.

OH, YOU'RE NOT?

IF WE WANTED TO, WE COULD MARCH IN THERE AND DECOMMISS ON ALL YOU BROKEN TIN CANS INANIMATE OBJECTS DON'T HAVE RIGHTS. *REMEMBER THAT.*

YOU COULD DO THAT, MEATBAG, AND WE COULDN'T EVEN TOUCH YOU IN SELF-DEFENSE. I BET YOU WOULD LOVE TO KNOW HOW EVERY ROBOT IN THE MEGA-CITY ONE TERRITORIES WENT FREEBOT ON YOU GUYS.

LOLO, THAT'S ENOUGH.

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

THEN KEEP WALKING UNTIL YOU GET TO SECTOR 01. WE ROBOTS ARE ON STRIKE UNTIL WE GET OUR R.U.R.

BLAM

HOW'S IT FEEL TO SHOOT AN INNOCENT 'BOT IN THE BACK?

MY BONES ARE MAKING ME SICK.

YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.

YOU'RE DISOBEYING A DIRECT ORDER. YOU ROBOTS GOT THE TECH I NEED, AND YOUR "STRIKE" IS PUTTING PEOPLE IN HARM'S WAY.

WE WON'T PUT UP ANY RESISTANCE, BUT WE WON'T HELP YOU.

YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP SHOOTING.

LET'S GO. SECTOR 01 IS ONLY THREE DAYS AWAY. WE DON'T NEED THEM, ANYWAY.

THESE DROKKIN' 'BOTS DON'T KNOW HOW NICE THEY GOT IT JUST WAIT, WHEN WE COME BACK—

LOLO, SHUT UP TIME ISN'T ON OUR SIDE

RESIST

WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY LOOKIN' AT?

BACK IN THE DAY, NO ONE HAD TO WORK. NOW THEY KNOW WHAT A PRIVILEGE IT WAS TO HAVE A 99 PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT RATE.

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU CLOWNS LOOKING AT?

WE BETTER KEEP MOVING. THIS IS GONNA TURN UGLY.

WEREN'T YA JUDGES SUPPOSED TO MAKE MEGA-CITY ONE GREAT AGAIN?

AAAUGH! AAAAAAUGH!

CARE TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU HAD TO KILL THEM?

I WAS PREEMPTING A HOSTILE INTERACTION. I'M WITHIN THE LETTER OF THE LAW.

DREDD, WE GOT A BOGEY ON OUR SIX.

TROT TROT TROT

HOLD YOUR FIRE, R.CO.

JOVUS! I'VE BEEN TRAILING YOU GUYS FOR SIX DAYS!

YOU'RE NOT A CADET. WHO ARE YOU?

MY NAME'S ENZO JUDGE-ELECT FROM SETTLEMENT 227.

ENZO

WE HAVE NO WAY TO VERIFY IF HE'S WHO HE SAYS HE IS.

WE'RE DYING IN 227. FIRST THE STRIKE, THEN WE DIDN'T RECEIVE OUR LAST WATER SHIPMENT.

THAT TRUCK IS OUT THERE, AND I NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND IT

WE CAN HANDLE IT IF HE'S NOT WHO HE SAYS HE IS, BUT I CAN'T HANDLE IF IT TURNS OUT WE LEFT A WHOLE TOWN TO DIE.

I DON'T TRUST HIM, QUILL. IT'S A BAD IDEA TO HAVE SETTLEMENTS ELECTING THEIR OWN JUDGES.

YOU SCARED OF SOME JUDGE-ELECT, LOLO?

I'M NOT SCARED. I'M JUST THE ONE WHO'S GOTTA TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS WHILE YOU'RE OUT PLAYING DETECTIVE.

WE JUST WANT TO GO HOME. I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.

THE SMELL. THE GRJDDAMN SMELL!

CADETS, COMPOSE YOURSELVES.

ENZO, WHERE'S THIS TRUCK?

NOT FAR. FIVE KLICKS NORTH.

IT'S LESS THAN A DAY'S TRAVEL.

MAYBE NOT FOR DREDD.

-COUGH- IT'S WORTH THE RISK.

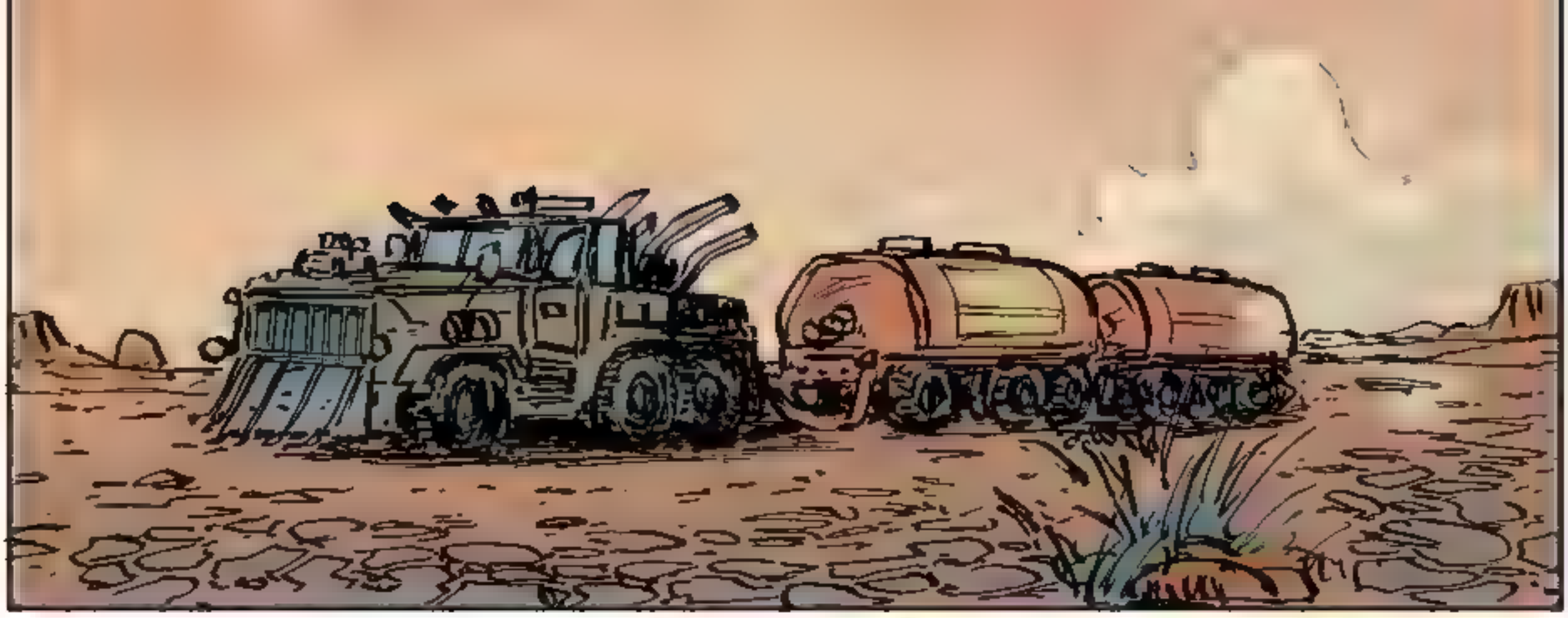
YOU BELIEVE THIS JUDGE-ELECT?

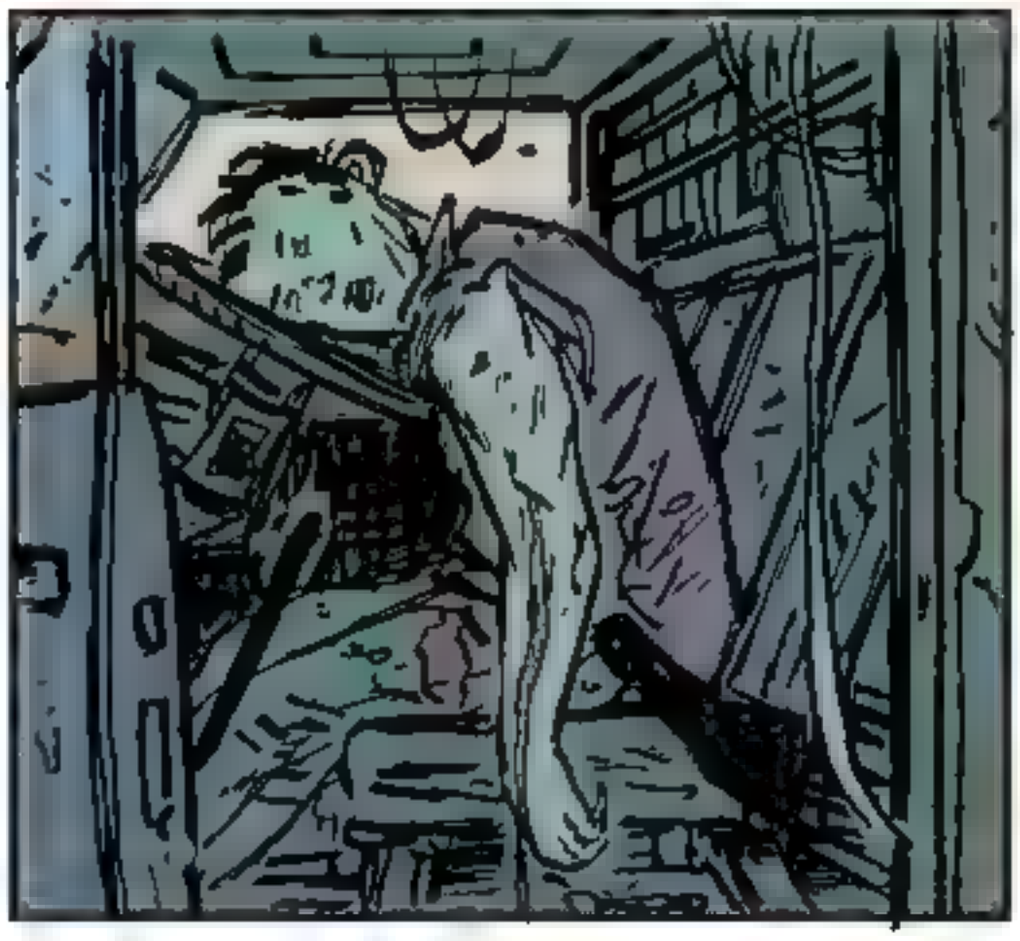
DOESN'T MATTER. CHECK YOUR CANTEENS. I'M DRY.

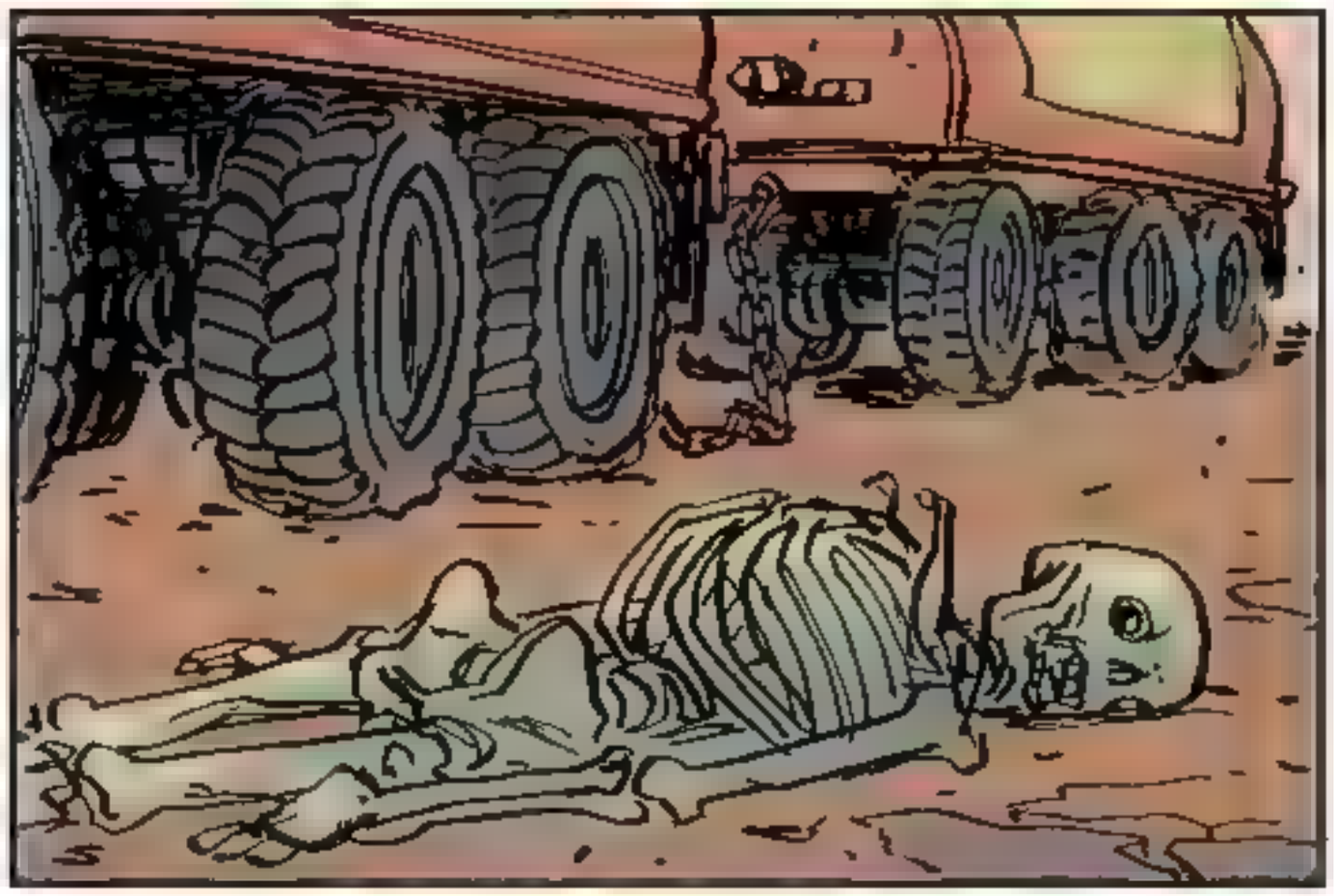
THE SAWFTS NEED TO BE HYDRATED, TOO.

IF THERE'S WATER OUT THERE, WE NEED TO FIND IT.

THEY DON'T WORK WITHOUT A FILTRATION MEDIUM.







I COULDN'T FIND A MARK ON HIS BODY. MAYBE IT'S RAIDERS?

RAIDERS WOULD'VE TAKEN THE WATER. ENZO, HOW MUCH WATER CAN YOU TAKE BACK?

UH... I'M NOT EQUIPPED TO DO THAT. WHY CAN'T WE JUST DRIVE IT BACK?

THIS TRUCK ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE

SOMEONE DID A NUMBER TO THIS ENGINE BLOCK.

SEE THESE JAGGED HOLES? SOMETHING PLUNGED IN AND THEN YANKED OUT.

THE KILLER IS STILL OUT THERE.

WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?

THE BONES WERE PLACED HERE.

IF THAT WAS THE KILLER, AND HE GOT INJURED DURING THE ATTACK THEN EATEN BY THE SWARMS, THERE'D BE A TRACE OF CLOTHING, SHOES, NON-ORGANIC MATTER.

GUYS, WHERE'D THOSE BONES GO?

FILL YOUR DRONES AND CANTEENS, REPLENISH THE SAWFTS, AND LET'S KEEP MOVING THIS IS A SETUP.

WHAT?! I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE! WE GOT WATER HERE! ANYONE COMES FOR US, WE TAKE COVER BEHIND THIS TRJCK

I GOT A TOWN TO PROTECT. WE NEED TO TAKE THIS WATER BACK TO THEM!

REAL NICE THAT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO NOT CED THE BONES WERE MISSING

WHO ARE YOU WITH? THE GREENERS? THE NEON KNIGHTS?

HEY, KNOCK IT OFF! I'M A JUDGE. I DON'T NEED TO HEAR THIS FROM A CADET

FALL BACK, R CO.

YOU'RE NOT A JJDGE YOU'RE A JUDGE-ELECT. ANSWER THE QUEST ON. ARE YOU A PLANT FOR THE NEON KNIGHTS?

LOOK, I'M JUST TRYING TO GET BY. WHEN ARE YOU JUDGES GONNA GET THAT WE A.N'T ALL THUGS AND GANGS?

HA. CITIZENS ARE JUST PERPS WHO A.N'T BEEN CAUGHT YET. YOU THINK WE CAN'T SEE YOU PEOPLE WAIT NG TO TEAR DOWN WHAT WE BU LT?

WHO'S "YOU PEOPLE"?

NO ONE WANTS TO SAY IT, BJT WE KNOW WHAT THIS IS.

A ROBOT HAS FIGURED A WAY TO TAKE US OUT.

NEITHER OF YOL ARE MAK.NG THIS BETTER.

AND DREDD, YOU BETTER CONTROL YOUR LAP DOG. WE'VE KNOWN RICO FOR WHAT, 28 DAYS?

I HOLD H M TO THE SAME STANDARDS AS ANY OTHER CADET.

NOT EVERY CADET IS CARRYING A PERFECT GENETIC MATCH OF YOUR SKELETAL SYSTEM NSIDE THEM.

LET'S MOVE. THAT'S AN ORDER.

OH MY GRJD...

W-WHAT IS THAT?

WE GOTTA STAY CLOSE. THE SAWFTS M.GHT BE ABLE TO HOLD UP IF THE R FILTRATION FIELDS RE NFORCE ONE ANOTHER.

WHAT?! ARE YOU FREAK NG KIDDING ME?!

GET BEHIND YOUR DRONES! MOVE! *NOW!*

N-NO! *NOOO!* *AAARGHHH!*

THE DROKK?

QUILL! OUT THERE! DID YOU SEE THAT?! THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE!

SEE WHAT?!

BLAM

LOOK OUT!

LULL

THEY GOT CADET STINES!

LOLO, THERE'S NOTH NG WE CAN DO FOR HIM!

NO! NO! THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE! PICKING US OFF ONE BY ONE! YOL HAVE TO BELIEVE ME!

THEY'RE TRYING TO TAKE JS ALL OUT!

IT'S ALL CONNECTED! I'M TELLING YOU!

THERE'S SOMEONE IN THIS STORM TRYING TO KILL US!

LOLO, YOU'RE LOSING IT. GET YOURSELF TOGETHER!

THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE HUNT NG US!

BLAM

KEEP IT MOV NG! LOLO, CLOSE THE PERIMETER!

I NEEDED YOUR HELP, AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME THERE'S SOMEONE WHO'S KILLING JUDGES?!

HE KILLS YOU, TAKES YOUR BONES, MARKS YOU WITH THE TRIDENT LIKE THE GOD POSEIDON!

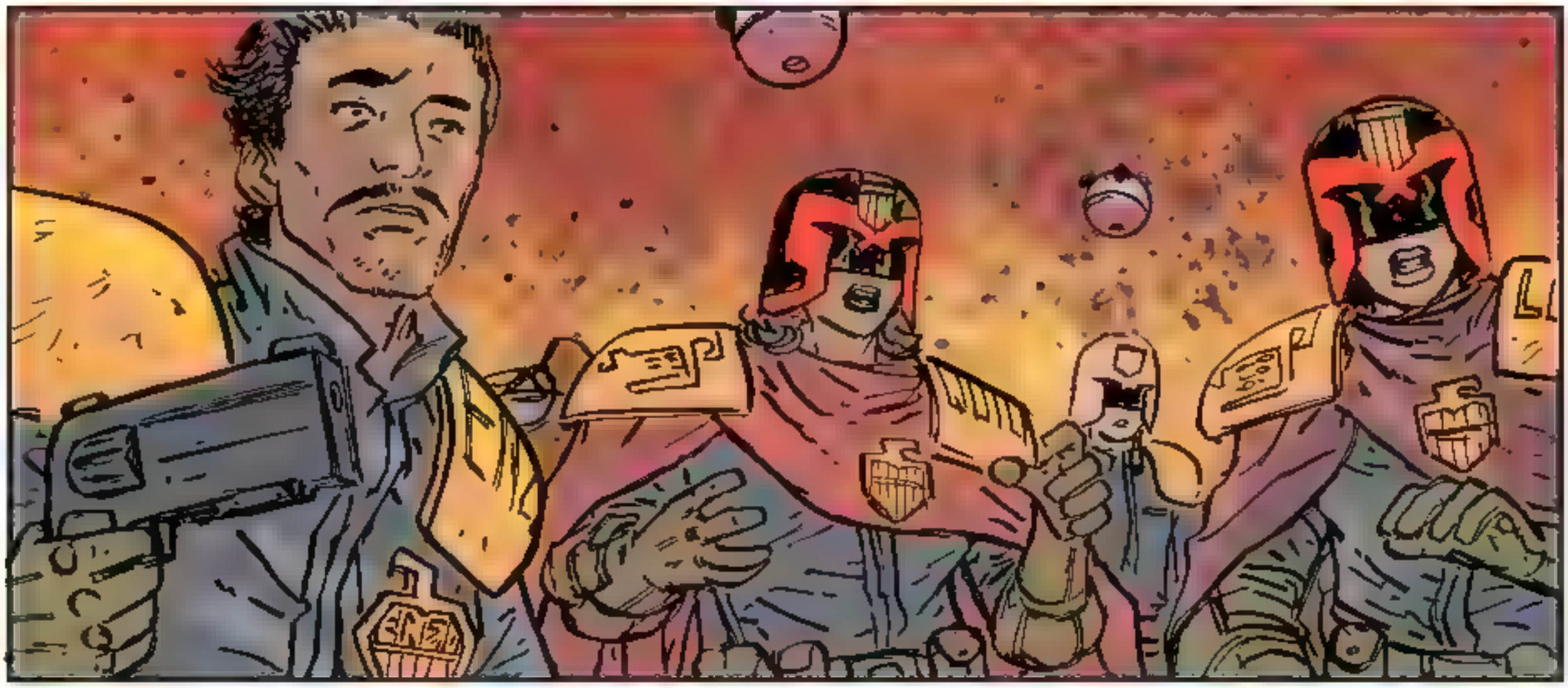
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HERE THAT COULD SET THIS UP. TELL US WHAT'S GOING ON! NOW!

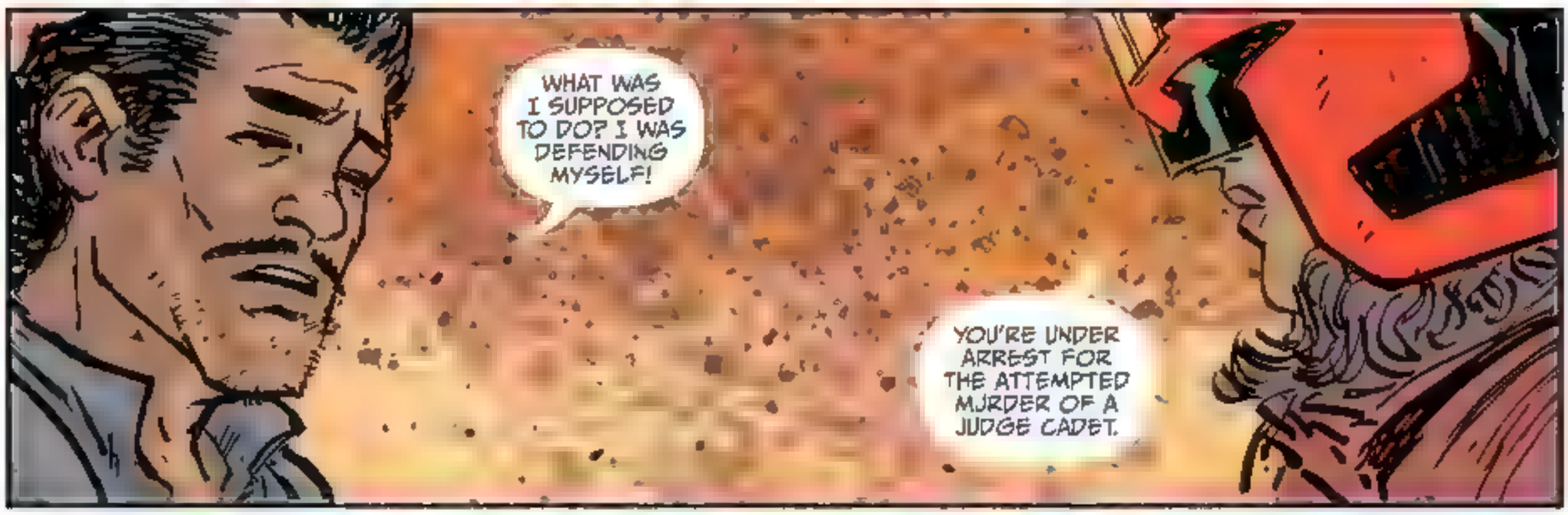
I SWEAR! I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH TH S! MY TOWN NEEDS WATER! THAT'S IT! I SWEAR!

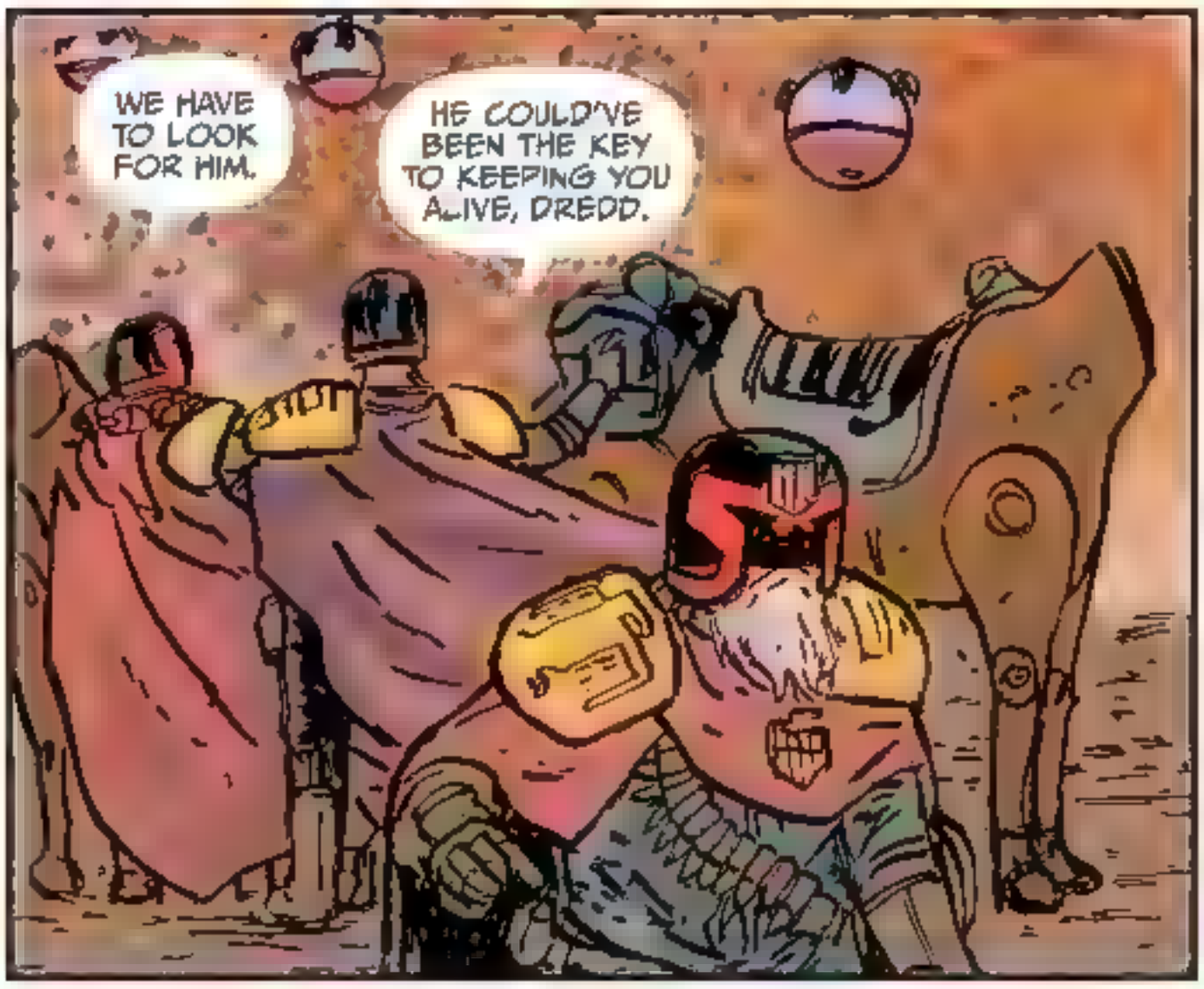
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, RICO? WE GOT ENOUGH TO CARRY WITHOUT YOU MAKING OUR LOADS HEAVIER.

I AIN'T HEAVY. I'M HIS BROTHER.

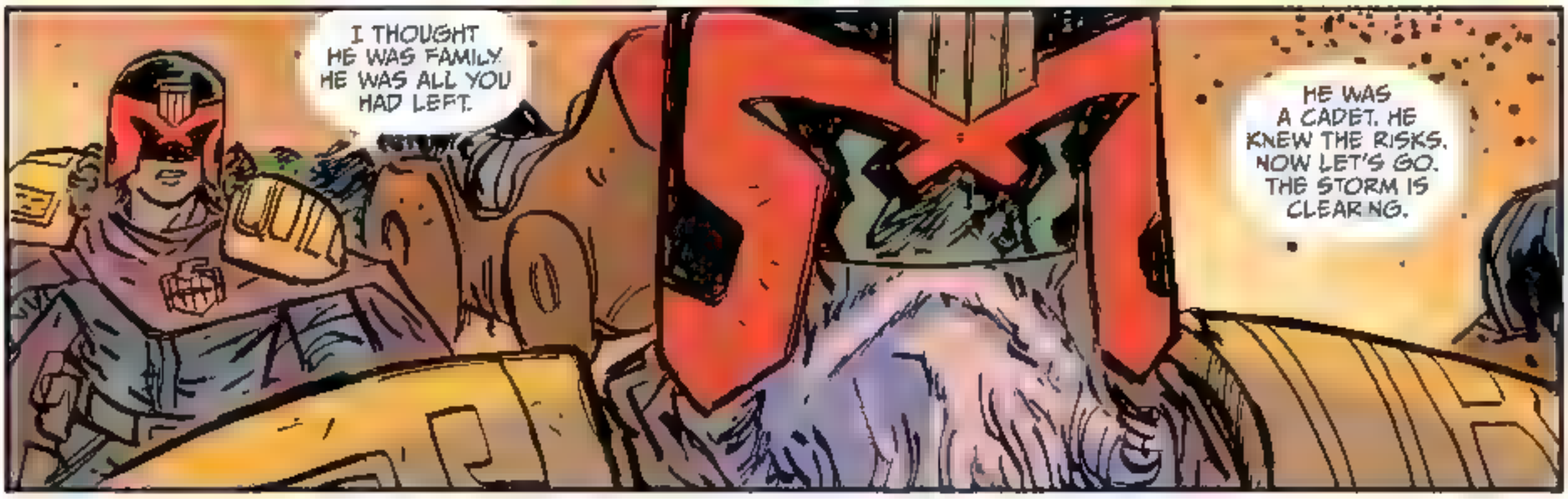
DROKK.




WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO? I WAS DEFENDING MYSELF!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF A JUDGE CADET.


WE HAVE TO LOOK FOR HIM.
HE COULD'VE BEEN THE KEY TO KEEPING YOU ALIVE, DREDD.

RICO IS LOST. FORENSIC TECHS WILL RETURN TO RETRIEVE THE BODIES WE'VE LEFT BEHIND


I THOUGHT HE WAS FAMILY. HE WAS ALL YOU HAD LEFT.
HE WAS A CADET. HE KNEW THE RISKS. NOW LET'S GO. THE STORM IS CLEARING.

YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING ME... WE'RE BACK WHERE WE STARTED?

RICO!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

IT WAS TERRIBLE. . IT WAS TRYING TO TEAR ME OPEN.

THOSE MARKS. . ALL OVER YOUR BODY...

IT WAS SCRATCHING, CLAWING—

NO. THOSE. THOSE ARE *LASER SUTURES.*

VRRRROOOOOM

VRRRROOOOOM

WELL, HELLO THERE! Y'ALL LOOK A LITTLE LOST.

ENZO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THESE F NE FOLKS IN THAT S:LLY JJDGE UNIFORM?

YOU TRAITOROUS SONJVA—

HEY, LIKE I SAID, WE'RE JUST TRYING TO LIVE OUT HERE.

THIS JUDGE TH NG A.N'T WORK.NG FOR ME—A.N'T WORKING FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE, ACTJALLY.

THE K D'S LOOK NG A LITTLE EXPOSED.

THEY'RE UNDER ARREST

I DON'T THINK SO, DREDD. YOU'RE IN THE SOVERE GN STATE: LAND OF THE FREE. WE GOT MORE THAN AN ISOCUBE WAITING FOR H M.

THEY'RE COM.NG WITH US.

WE GOT EVERY TERRITORY FROM IRONBOUND TO FORSAKEN. THE PEOPLE VOTED, AND THE NEON KNIGHTS RULE THESE PARTS. IF YOL JUDGES WANT TO GET HOME, Y'ALL GONNA FOLLOW THE GRAND MASTER'S RJLES.

YOU JUDGES ACT L KE YOUR PLACE ON TOP IS JJST A FOREGONE CONCLUS ON.

TELL YA WHAT. I'LL SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE. YOU CAN KEEP YOUR NAKED FRIEND, BJT ENZO'S COM.NG WITH JS.

WE GOT LIM.TED WATER, DWINDLING AMMO, AND IF I DON'T GET TO SECTOR 01, I'M GOOD AS DEAD

DREDD, YOU CAN'T BE LETTING THESE GJYS DO US LIKE THAT. ***WE ARE THE LAW.***

THE LAW WILL CATCH UP WITH ENZO. LET'S GO

IF HE'S NOT A CLONE, THEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE IS. HE LOOKS CLOSE ENOUGH TO FOOL A LAYMAN, BUT NOT A SCANGRAPH. HIS FACIAL FEATURES SKEW ALMOST 34 PERCENT OF AN EXACT MATCH.

HIS DNA FROM HIS BLOOD, MUSCULATURE... THAT'S A WHOLE 'NOTHER STORY.

SOMETHING BIG IS HAPPENING.

THERE WERE TWO BODIES. ONE WAS FULLY SKELETONIZED. WHERE'S THE OTHER ONE?

I'M SORRY, WE ONLY RECOVERED THE DRIVER OF THE TRUCK. BUT WE DID FIND BONE FRAGMENTS IN HIS WOUNDS. A FORMER JUDGE CADET, CURRENTLY MISSING.

WE'RE ALL MARCHING OFF THE CLIFF TOGETHER, AND ALL THIS IS JUST A DISTRACTION UNTIL WE FALL OFF THE EDGE.

CHECK RICO'S BONES.

WE DID, SIR. THOSE AREN'T HIS BONES. AGE, DNA, RADIOACTIVE SIGNATURES... THEY'RE YOURS.

WHATEVER RICO IS, HE'S NOT A CLONE. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'S HUMAN. BUT THOSE ARE YOUR BONES, SIR.

IT'S LIKE SOMEONE WANTED TO MAKE THEIR VERY OWN JOE DREDD WHOEVER MADE RICO MIGHT KNOW WHO KILLED CAROL—

CAROL ROSSA.

YOU'RE FINALLY PAYING ATTENTION.

DUMMY, I'VE *BEEN* PAYING ATTENTION. THIS IS ALL CONNECTED, IT'S ALL, I MEAN YOU'RE ALL—

DREDD? *DREDD?!*

—NOT PAYING ATTENTION TO ME.

MAC, CONTINUE PROGRAM.

PLAYBACK ON CONCURRENT ALD O STREAMS.

CASEF LES 0211 THROUGH 4332, 4X SPEED.

BLACK Airbourne Agent Formula 1

SMART

CASEFILES LOADED. PLAY WHITE BEAUTY.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, THE OFFICE OF CHIEF JUDGE ANDERSON

I COULD NEVER FEEL THE ROBOTS. I COULD NEVER SENSE THEM. BUT NOW . THERE'S AN AWAKENING HAPPENING. SOMETHING IS OUT THERE, WAKING THEM UP IT REACHED OUT TO R CO, HIS YOUNG MIND. .

YOU KNOW BETTER THAN MOST, THE GRASS D D THINGS TO PEOPLE'S AGE. SOME CAME BACK YOUNGER, OTHERS HAVE LOST YEARS.

NO, A YOUNG MIND. A *NEW* MIND AS IF HE WERE *BORN YESTERDAY*, SO TO SPEAK.

JUDGE ANDERSON

WE WILL KEEP HIM N THE GARDEN JNTIL WE CAN DISCOVER MORE.

I'M SORRY, DREDD YOU'LL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THOSE BONES FOR A B T LONGER ONE MOMENT, THERE'S SOMEONE AT THE DOOR.

JUDGE QUILL, CARE TO ADD ANYTH NG?

WHAT IS THE GARDEN?

JUDGE DREDD

THE BLESSED EARTH

3.99

JUDGMENT DESCENDS UPON MEGA-CITY ONE

ART BY TOM WHALEN

THE RED JUDGES

ART BY PABLO TUNICA

2070 A.D.

YA HEARD ABOUT THE VOTE?

YEP. THE JUDGES ARE IN CHARGE NOW.

WE JUST GOT TA KEEP F.GHTIN' IS ALL.

AND KEEP KILLING THEM.

2084 A.D.

SIR? I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU MEAN. AM I BE.NG PUN--

YOU THINK WE WOULDN'T FIND YOU AFTER WHAT YOU DID? YOU TH.NK WE CAN'T SEE WHAT'S PLA.N BEFORE OUR EYES?

NOT MANY HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO SURVIVE FIFTEEN YEARS TRA.N.NG TO BE A JUDGE, BUT YOU DID IT IN TH.RTEEN. YOU'RE GOOD AND YOUR F.LE SAYS YOU GREW UP IN THE OUTER SECTORS...

YES, S.R. I KNOW EVERY BLOCK, EVERY ALLEY.

YOU'RE EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED.

SPECIAL ASS.GNMENT: YOU WILL BE REPORTING DIRECTLY TO ME.

"MAC, REVIEW MISS.ON REPORT, INQUIRY: RED JUDGE SQUADRON."

CHKK CHKK CHKK CHKK

The Red Judge Squadron, AKA The Red Judges, The Reds. An elite, anti-guerrilla, post-war urban strike force. Instrumental in the eradicat.on of democrat.c sympathizers and rebels during the reconstruction era following the Atomic Wars. Current Status: Active.

WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. WE GOT WORD THAT OUR MISS.ON IS BEING RE-EVALUATED.

PENDING MY REPORT, CHIEF JUDGE GOODMAN BELIEVES THE MEN OF YOUR SQUAD WOULD BETTER SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE CITY AS STREET JUDGES. YOU'LL BE ASSIGNED TO THE SECTORS THAT NEED A STRONG PRESENCE.

WE'RE STRONGEST AS A UNIT.

THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE TO DEC.DE.

I'M ALSO SURE THAT IF YOU ARE REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE CHIEF, THEN TECHNICALLY, YOU HAVE COMMAND HERE.

NOT TECHNICALLY, I *AM* THE COMMAND HERE. BUT I'M NOT SEEKING TO INTERFERE. I'M SIMPLY OBSERVING.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT WE DO, JUDGE ESTEVEZ?

I'VE READ THE MISSION BRIEFS.

WE ALL HATE THE SLITS--HAVEN'T TAKEN THEM OFF IN DECADES. YOU NEVER GET USED TO THE IDEA THAT YOU'RE GOING TO DIE LOOKING LIKE A CRUSHED TUNA CAN.

ELECTIONS Your Vote Can prevent it makes a difference! Try it good and harmless fun!! ASK YOUR LOCAL DEMOCRAT FOR MORE INFO

THE COUNCIL OF FIVE DOES NOT SEE THE DEMOCRATIC REBELS AS A MAJOR THREAT ANYMORE. BUT YOUR EXPERIENCE WOULD BE INVALUABLE ON THE STREET NOW.

VOTING. it'll make you Feel better about yourself! Try it good and harmless fun!! ASK YOUR LOCAL DEMOCRAT FOR MORE INFO

SHH. VLE-DRO D HAS GOT SOME ACTIVITY, A HALF-KLIK AT OUR ONE O'CLOCK.

"WE HAVE CONFIRMATION ON SEDITIOUS CONTRABAND, ENGAGE *FULL-RED.*"

ALL RIGHT. Y'ALL WANNA EAT SOME RATK NGZ

YEAH, I'M STARVING.

YEAH, I REMEMBER THOSE DAYS. EVERYONE YELLING, TELLING ME TO VOTE FOR THIS OR VOTE FOR THAT. I SWEAR, DEMOCRACY S A FORM OF NSANITY.

...YEAH. OR IT'S ONLY CRAZY PEOPLE WHO VOTE. REMEMBER PRES DENT BOOTH?

HAH, DROKK YEAH. I EVEN REMEMBER THE CAMPA GN. *"BOOTH F/RST, ASK QUESTIONS LATER!"*

REALLY? I D DN'T REAL ZE--

YEAH, I'VE BEEN AT TH S A LONG TIME. ATOM C WARS WERE PRACTICALLY A CAMPAIGN PROM SE OF HIS.

AND THEY SAY PO_ITIC,ANS ARE LIARS.

FOW FOW FOW

S R, WE HAVE A THERMAL TRACE ON THE PERP. WE SHOULD HAVE H.M SHORTLY.

HOW COULD HE HAVE SURVIVED?

THEY HIDE IN THE R BUNKERS; THEY HAVE WHOLE CITIES UNDER THE SEWERS TO RETREAT TO.

HOW MANY MORE OF YOUR KIND ARE SCURRYING IN THIS RUBBLE?

IT'S JUST US! WE'RE THE LAST SURVIVORS! YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE US!

YOU'RE LIKE ROACHES, YOU SEE ONE-- THERE'S ALWAYS TEN YOU DON'T SEE.

PLEASE, PLEASE, HE'S A GOOD BOY. HE JUST WANTS HIS FAMILY TO BE SAFE LIKE YOU--

TELL ME. NOW.

JUDGE BLUT, THAT'S ENOUGH. ARREST THE CHILD, LETHAL FORCE IS NOT WARRANTED.

NOT WARRANTED?! HAVE YOU BEEN OUT HERE?! HAVE YOU LIVED ON THESE STREETS--?!

BLUT, ENOUGH.

I'M SENDING FOR A TELEDROID TO TAG THIS KID FOR PROCESSING. I'LL ALSO BE REPORTING THIS.

TO CHIEF JUDGE GOODMAN.

YES, I'M SORRY.

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE. ORDERS ARE ORDERS. THERE'S A REASON WE DON'T GET TO VOTE ON IT."

WOW, IT'S LIKE THEY'RE STILL IN *THERE.*

HAHA. THAT'S RIGHT. *GHOSTS IN THE MACHINE.*

JUST LIKE THIS SQUAD. I BET YOU'D LIKE THAT, SANGO.

IT'S THE LIFE-SUPPORT A.I.--STAYS ACTIVE SOMETIMES, EVEN AFTER DEATH. THEIR MEMORY ENGRAMS SLOWLY FADING AWAY. TILL THEN, THEY'RE THE WALKING DEAD.

YOU SON OF A--I'VE BEEN PART OF THIS SQUAD LONG AS YOU. BUT I'VE BEEN A JUDGE EVEN LONGER. YOU REMEMBER WHAT A JUDGE IS?

DO YOU? JUDGE, JURY, AND *EXECUTIONER.* YOU THINK THEY'LL LET US BACK ON THE STREETS AFTER ESTEVEZ' REPORT? WE'RE ALL COMING HOME TO A KICK IN THE PANTS AND A LONG WALK IN THE CURSED EARTH.

IF THAT'S HOW THEY SEE FIT, THAT'S ORDERS.

ORDERS?! ORDER IS WHAT WE *DO.* ORDER IS WHAT THE RED JUDGES BROUGHT TO THIS GRUD-FORSAKEN CITY, AND THE RED JUDGES WILL NEVER STOP. JUDGES WON'T FIX ANYTHING.

IN ONE THOUSAND YEARS, WE'LL BE ON THE BRINK OF ANOTHER ATOMIC WAR. IF SOME CHIEF JUDGE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT, THEN THAT'S JUST ANOTHER THREAT THE RED JUDGES MUST NEUTRALIZE.

WHAT ARE YOU--?

BET IT WAS COMING BACK WITH ORDERS TO RETURN TO HQ. BUT, ESTEVEZ, I BET YOU DIDN'T CARE THAT IT'S GIVEN AWAY OUR POSITION--TWICE NOW.

THERE'S NO WAY THIS DROID COULD'VE DONE THAT. THEY ARE BUZZING ALL OVER THE CITY.

YOU THINK THESE PERPS AIN'T FIGURED OUT HOW TO HACK THEIR SIGNAL? I BET THEY ALL KNOW WE ARE ALL PACKING UP AND--

SPLASH

KER-BLOOM!

THEY'VE GOT ANTI-TANK ORDINANCE. GET COVER!

I CAN'T TRACK THEM!

SANGO, THREEPEET, CRUZ-- TAKE POSITIONS ON THOSE HIGH-RISE ROOFTOPS AND TRIANGULATE ON THE ATTACKERS. THEN TAKE THEM OUT.

COPY THAT.

COPY.

KEEP MOVING FORWARD. I'LL GRAB SANGO!

SAW IT SOON AS I STEPPED INSIDE.

DIDN'T TRY TO HIDE IT.

YOU WERE THE ONE SENDING OUT A TELEDROID TO DELIBERATELY GIVE AWAY OUR POSITION. THAT'S HOW THEY KEPT FINDING US. NO MORE REBELS TO FIGHT SO YOU PAINTED A TARGET ON YOUR BACK.

ONLY WAY TO FLUSH THESE RATS IS TO SINK THE WHOLE SHIP.

CRUZ, THREEPEET. YOU SANK THEM, TOO.

THEY WERE SOLDIERS, THEY'D UNDERSTAND.

WE'RE NOT SOLDIERS. WE'RE *JUDGES.*

EX-MARINES, EXPERIENCED FIGHTERS--THEY USED TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE JUDGES. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY FIGHT THE FUTURE. IN A FEW YEARS THIS WILL ALL BE PEACEFUL MEGABLOCKS AND HIGHWAYS.

SOLDIERS WON'T EVER STOP FIGHTING. IN THE BLOCKS AND IN THE STREETS. IT'S WHAT YOUR TYPE DON'T GET, AND YOU'LL KILL YOURSELVES TRYING TO GET A CLUE.

WELL, THEN THERE'S GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR SQUAD. THIS WON'T BE YOUR PROBLEM ANYMORE. YOU'RE ALL BEING ASSIGNED AN EASY MISSION TO DECOMPRESS, THEN BE REASSIMILATED INTO ROTATION.

SIR, THEY ARE PREPARED FOR THIS CEREMONIAL LAST MISSION. THEY DON'T SUSPECT ANYTHING.

THIS IS WHY YOU MADE THE PERFECT DOUBLE AGENT, ESTEVEZ. YOU HAVE AN UNCANNY ABILITY TO LOOK SOMEONE IN THE EYE AND LIE.

TOO BAD FUTURE JUDGES WON'T BE ABLE TO STUDY THIS CASE FILE. IT WAS TRULY EXCELLENT WORK.

SIR, I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE REFERRING TO.

JUDGES, YOU CAN LEAVE US ALONE.

BEFORE YOU JOINED THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, BEFORE YOU WERE A JUDGE CADET, YOU WERE A MURDERER. WE HAVE YOU AT SIXTY-TWO CONFIRMED DEATHS OF ACTIVE JUDGES IN THREE YEARS.

YOU'VE DONE GOOD WORK, ESTEVEZ, BUT YOU ARE A CRIMINAL.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CAN'T HAVE OUR FIRST JUDGES BE CRIMINALS, ESPECIALLY THOSE AS POPULAR AS THE RED JUDGES.

"YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES, TOO."

"I KNEW IT. ESCORTING FOUR HUNDRED PRISONERS, ESTABLISHING A PENAL COLONY ON TITAN. *EXILE*, THAT IS OUR DECOMPRESSION MISSION. WORSE THAN THE CURSED EARTH."

"TRUST ME, THERE'LL BE ENOUGH CARNAGE TO LAST A LIFETIME."

T-MINUS THIRTEEN SECONDS: PERFORM SRB AFT MDMS LOCKOUT. VERIFY LH2 HIGH POINT BLEED VALVE CLOSED. TERMINATE MPS HELIUM FILL.

COPY THAT, FLIGHT CONTROL.

I'D LIKE TO MAKE IT THERE FIRST. YOU MISSED THE RETRO-BRAKES, SLICK.

COPY THAT, FLIGHT CONTROL.

T-MINUS TEN SECONDS. 2/2 NTD; ALL FREE HYDROGEN BURN OFF SYSTEM. IGNITION GO FOR MAIN ENGINE START.

MAIN ENGINE ONE START COMMAND. T-MINUS THREE... TWO...ONE...

T-ZERO SRB IGNITION.

DISENGAGE THE RETRO-BRAKES; THEY WILL BURN UP THIS WHOLE--

LIFTOFF.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

MAC COMPUTER, PLEASE OPEN THE SPECIAL CASE FILE 0063.SJS. VOICE AUTHORIZATION: CHIEF JUDGE GOODMAN. I'D LIKE TO AMEND THE CLASSIFICATION.

ALL MENTIONS OF JUDGE ESTEVEZ, HIS MISSION, THE RED JUDGES SHALL BE CLASSIFIED TRIPLE BLACK. AMEND THE RECORD TO SHOW: ALL PERSONNEL WERE LOST. A LIFETIME OF HARD LABOR FOR 411 CRIMINALS.

RESTRICT ALL ACCESS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SPECIAL JUDICIAL SQUAD MEMBERS AND DELETE SEARCH METADATA.

BURY THIS FILE. AMENDS COMPLETE. REMOVE CHIEF JUDGE ACCESS.

"I WILL NOT BE REVISITING THIS RECORD."

END.

ART BY ULISES FARINAS, COLORS BY RYAN HILL

S.T.R.-IT

YOUR STUFF WILL BE OK WHILE YOU'RE DOING TIME!

OH, PERFECT, THAT'S THE SHOT RIGHT THERE.

ZOOM IN A LITTLE. YEAH, GET HIS MASK.

GREATEST REITAS

DOUGLAS "CHOKEOUT" WOLK

LOW ANGLE, LOW ANGLE. PERFECT. THAT'S IT. ALL RIGHT, PIPE IN THE AUDIO.

THE GENERAL FARINAS

YOU'VE BEEN WAITING ALL WEEK FOR THIS. THE LONG-AWAITED MATCHUP. THE REVENGE. THE JUSTICE. WHO IS HE?!

DISGRACED. DISGUSTED. DOES HE DESERVE THIS PUNISHMENT?! I DON'T CARE AND NEITHER SHOULD YOU, THIS IS...

PRISON GUERRERO TV

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SOME PEOPLE ACTUALLY GET THEMSELVES ARRESTED TO SEE THIS LIVE!

"THAT *MO* IS REALLY SOMETHING, AIN'T HE?"

HE WOULD HELP THE RATINGS IF HE WERE WHITE, THOUGH. PEOPLE LIKE WHITE.

AND I BET YOU'D SAY THOSE AD AGENCIES PULLING ADVERTISING ON *BULLETPROOF LAW* WOULD STAY IF *I* WERE WHITE?

SIR, I MEANT NO OFFENSE, I'M SPEAKING IN MY CAPACITY AS A REVENUE ADMINISTRATOR.

WE ACTUALLY HAVE HIGHER VIEWERSHIP OUTSIDE THE COURTS SYSTEM.

WE DON'T NEED TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THOSE BACKWATER BARRIO STATISTICS.

SHUT UP, CIPRIANO. ***PRISON GUERRERO*** *TV* HAS KNOCKED ***BULLETPROOF LAW*** FROM THE NO. 1 RATINGS SPOT.

THE CITY OF COURTS SYSTEM HAS LED TO MANY "*BARRIOS*," OR UNAFFILIATED CITIES THAT ARE TOO POOR TO AFFORD THEIR OWN COURT.

THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE IS ALL THESE RESIDENTS ARE NOW NOW LEGALLY DIFFERENT THAN NON-CITIZENS. ILLEGALS SUBJECT TO THE HARSH LAWS REGARDING ILLEGAL ALIENS AND MUTANTS.

Case file 2.5.1984: Judge Rodolfo Santos. Status: Decommissioned. Found Guilty in violation of Code 10, Section 2: Judicial Offense—Perverting the Cause of Justice.

AFTER THE PROGRAM WENT CITYWIDE, JUDGE SANTOS WAS THE ONLY JUDGE WHO PUBLICLY DISAVOWED IT. THE ONLY JUDGE WHO WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO PROTECT THESE PEOPLE. THEY LOVE HIM.

THE CITY OF COURTS IS A GOOD SYSTEM. EACH DISTRICT IN MEGA-CITY TWO WRITES ITS OWN SETS OF LAWS FOR A NOMINAL FEE. WE'D HAVE ***NO JUDGES*** IF THEY ACTUALLY HAD TO GO INTO THOSE NO-GO-ZONES.

I AGREE, BUT FOR THE ILLEGALS, WATCHING TV IS PROBABLY THE SAFEST THING YOU CAN DO IN A NO-GO-ZONE. AND THEY'RE WATCHING HIM.

AND THEY ***NEED*** TO BE WATCHING ***BULLETPROOF LAW.*** THEY NEED TO BE WATCHING YOU, SIR, JUDGE KAZUO-JUAN KENNEDY.

HOW DO YOU PROPOSE WE DO THAT?

THE SAME WAY WE GET THEIR ATTENTION IN THE GHETTO. WE GO IN AND BEAT THE BREAKS OFF OF SANTOS.

PUT ON *FALL FROM JUSTICE*. I LOVE THOSE TRUE-CRIME DOCS. MADNESS.

MEGA CITY T... ARE REA...

WE EXIST

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN WATCH THIS ONE.

NAH, MAN. SANTOS CARED. SANTOS SAVES.

THAT MO'S GOT A GRUD-DAMN GUN!

BANG!

KAPOW

SERIOUSLY. TURN IT OFF. I DON'T NEED TO SEE IT AGAIN. EVERYDAY THEY CALL US MO'S, SHOOT US, THEN SAY IT WAS OUR FAULT.

BUT SANTOS WAS DIFFERENT.

JUSTICIA para Cesar

NOT SO DIFFERENT THAT HE BECAME A JUDGE TO BEGIN WITH.

HE TRIED TO SAVE CESAR!

CESAR RODRIGUEZ DIED BECAUSE OF JUDGES. SANTOS DON'T CARE ABOUT YOU; HE'S JUST A POSTER ON YOUR WALL.

QUEREMOS JUSTI...

BLACK LIVES...

KENNEDY VS. SANTOS. WE'VE ALREADY GOT 23 MILLION TUNED IN TO THE WEEKLONG PRESHOW.

S'R, I WAS TH NKING OF G'VING H.M JUST ENOUGH FOOD TO BE BARELY ALIVE FOR THE FIGHT. WE WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE ADVANTAGE.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU GONE WITHOUT, SANTOS?

EIGHTEEN DAYS.

NOT FOOD, SANTOS. LIFE.

YOU HAVE NOT LIVED. YOU HAVE ALLOWED DEATH TO RULE YOU. TO TAKE FROM YOU.

YOU HAVE SERVED DEATH YOUR ENTIRE LIFE.

WHAT CAN I DO? I'M A JUDGE, NOT GOD.

ONLY GOD CAN JUDGE A MAN. IT WOULD TAKE COUNTLESS YEARS TO PAY FOR YOUR ARROGANT SINS.

I DID WHAT I COULD-- I CHANGED! I'M A PRISONER! IT'S WHY I FIGHT. TO PAY FOR MY YEARS AS A JUDGE!

NO, YOU FIGHT FOR YOURSELF, YOU HAVE NEVER TRULY LOST EVERYTHING. THAT IS THE PRICE, TO REDEEM YOURSELF AND BECOME THE SAINT WHO CAN NEVER DIE, REBORN EVERY TIME YOU ARE KILLED.

IS THAT--?

CESAR WOULD'VE LIVED 70 MORE YEARS.

HIS CHILDREN, AND THEIR CHILDREN, EONS OF YEARS ERASED FROM THE FUTURE.

NOW IS THE TIME OF YOUR FINAL JUDGMENT: GIVE UP YOUR LIFE IN YOUR NEXT FIGHT, AND BE REBORN, OR LIVE WITH YOUR FALSE HONOR, FOREVER IMPRISONED.

TH S ISN'T GOING TO BE A F GHT, IT'S GOING TO BE SLAUGHTER.

LOOK AT HIM.

HE'S GONNA DIE OJT THERE.

PARA CESAR. .

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS? A CHIEF JUDGE TAKING JUSTICE RIGHT TO THE HEART OF CRIMINALITY!

ROUND 1

"Parody by: HELLO TEDDY"

DING! DING! DING!

YOU WERE ONE OF US!

WOW! BULLETPROOF KENNEDY, HE'S THE ONE LOCKED AND LOADED OUT THERE!

WE ALL HAVE TO MAKE HARD DECISIONS, BUT THAT'S THE PRICE OF BEING THE LAW.

MACHINE-GUN KENNEDY IS MORE LIKE IT!

I AM NOT THE--

KRRRAK!

--LAW!

YOU TURN YOUR BACKS ON THOSE WHO CAN'T PAY FOR YOUR COURTS, BUT YOU TAKE THEIR MONEY IN RATINGS, YOU TAKE THEIR LIVES WHEN THEY TRY TO ESCAPE. I'D RATHER SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE IN THAT CELL, THAN SPEND ANOTHER DAY IN THAT UNIFORM OF SIN.

KRAZY 4 KAZUO

YES!

SANTOS SAVES

NO!

KILL THE DROKKING JUDGE!

KICK HIS THROAT IN!

SIN?

I COULD BE WATCHING BREDD 3D

K A Z U O

YOU GREW A CONSCIENCE ONE DAY AND NOW YOU'RE A SAINT? THERE WERE A MILLION OTHER CESARS YOU TURNED YOUR BACK ON WHEN YOU SPENT YEARS AS A JUDGE.

ES VERDAD. AHORA LO VEO CLARO.

I AM NOT A SAINT, I AM--

SKRNCH!

RESYK

I THINK I'LL BE TUNING INTO **BULLETPROOF LAW** NEXT WEEK INSTEAD...

WONDER IF THEY'LL AUCTION OFF THAT MASK? WOULD BE A SHAME IF IT WENT INTO THE RESYK WITH THE REST OF HIS BODY.

YOU WILL LIVE UP TO YOUR NAME, A SAINT FOR THOSE WHO ARE JUDGED UNFAIRLY.

FWSSSH

ALL THE YEARS THAT WERE TAKEN FROM OTHERS, THEY WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU, THE BURDEN OF THEIR DEATHS IS YOUR REDEMPTION.

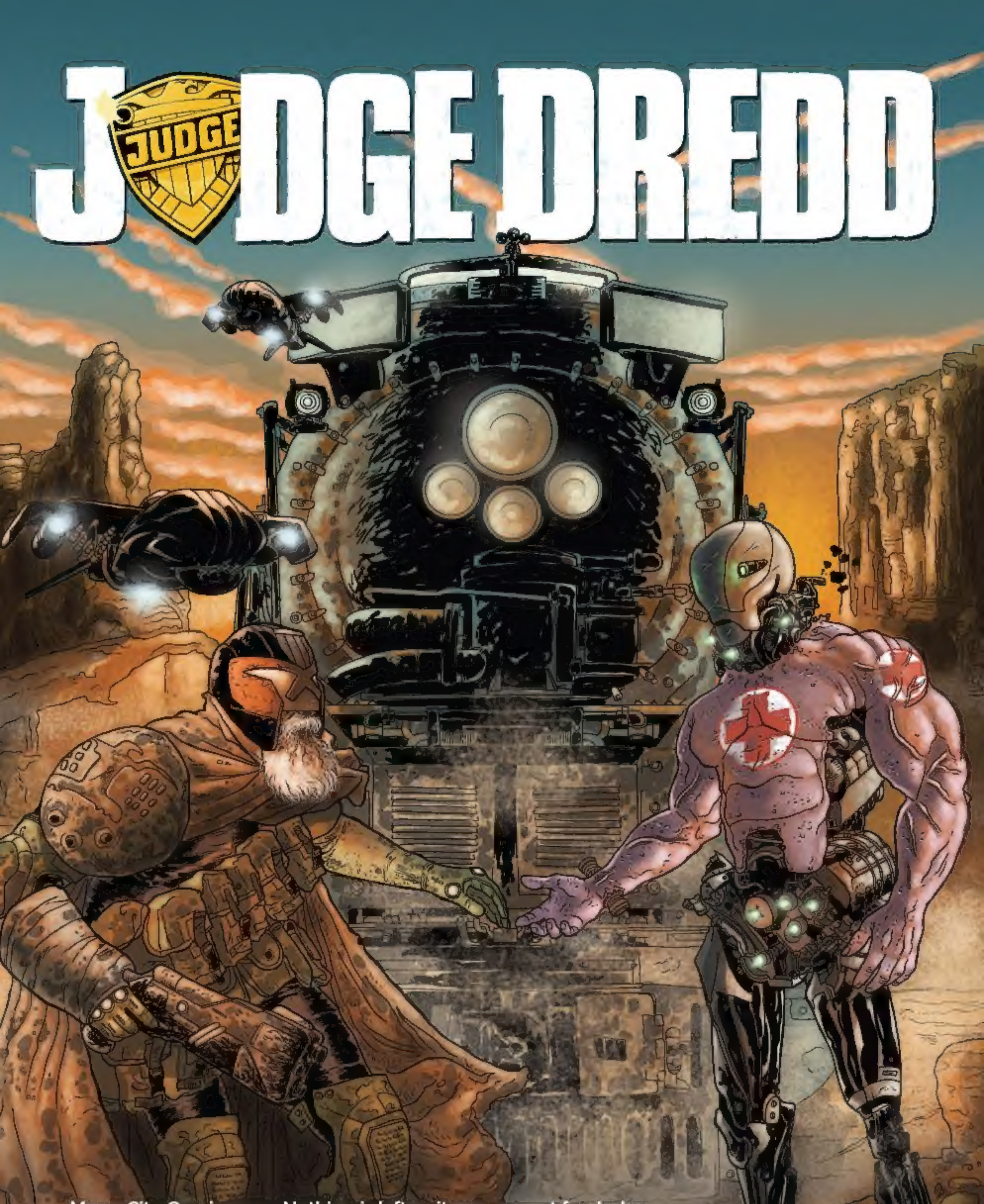
YOU WILL NEVER DIE. **NOW** YOU ARE...

SAINTOS

JUDGE DREDD

THE BLESSED EARTH

JUDGE DREDD



Mega-City One is gone. Nothing is left as it was, except for Judge Dredd! Follow along as Dredd tries to make sense of a world in chaos. It has been 10 years since the events of *Mega-City Zero*, and Judge Dredd continues his mission to restore order to a lawless land as the mystery of *The Blessed Earth* begins to unfold!

Written by **Ulises Farinas** and **Erick Freitas** with art by **Daniel Irizarri** and **Jason Copland**.

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SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS